FINAL FANTASY XII
ファイナルファンタジー XII
I
天羽 銀
GANGANCOMICS

FINAL FANTASY XII

天羽 銀（あもう ぎん）

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CHARACTER DESIGN:Akihiko Yoshida

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第１章「大義の代償」

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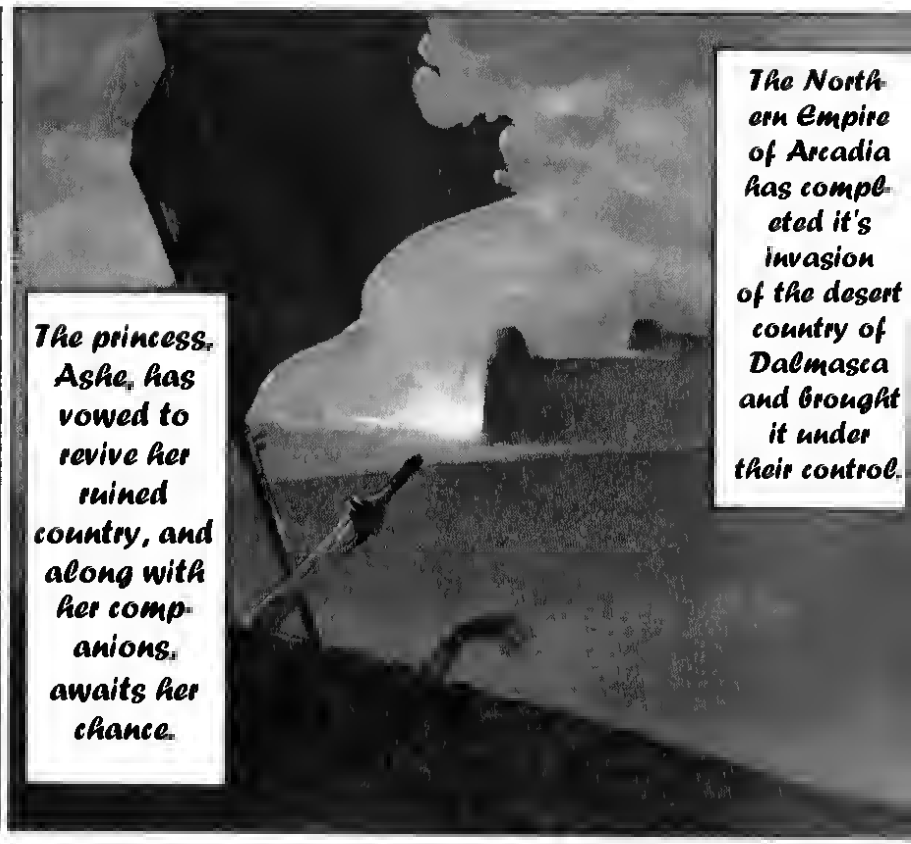
第３章「黄昏の王国」

It's a time when magic is still commonplace,
And Airships soar through the heavens.
This is a story of the world called Ivalice.

Year 706 of the Valedian calander.

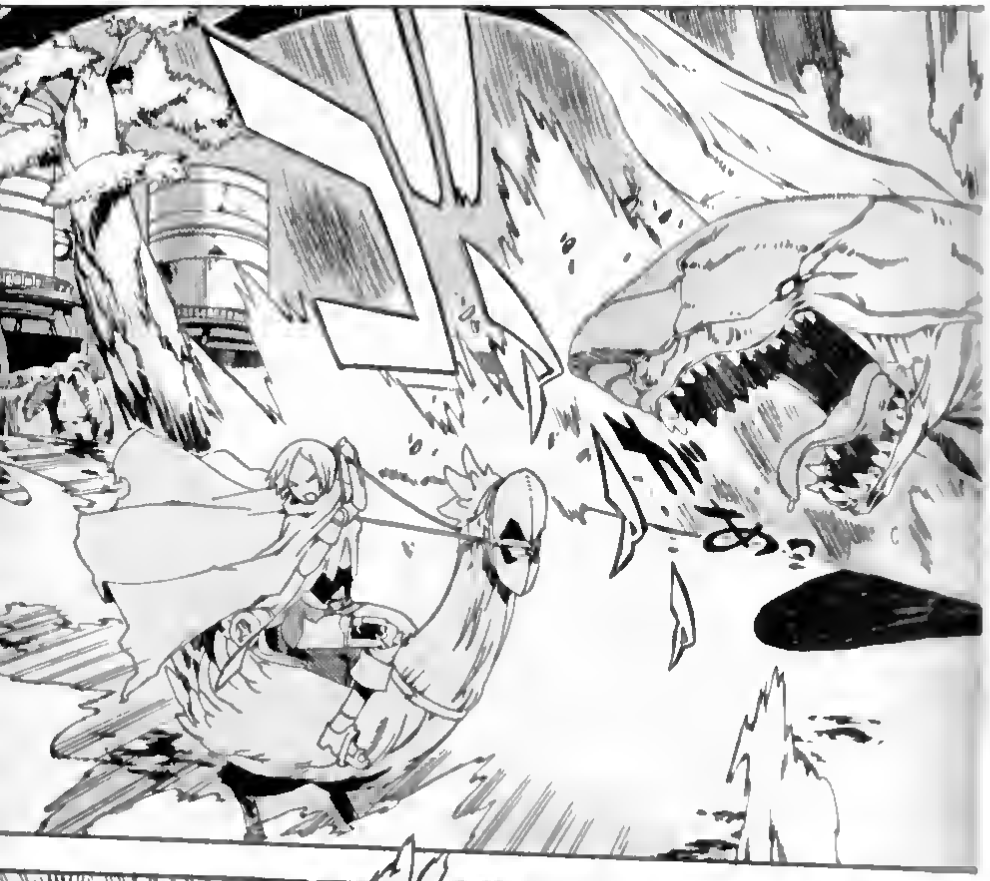
A pivotal battle is once again approaching for Dalmasca


The princess, Ashe, has vowed to revive her ruined country, and along with her companions, awaits her chance.
The Northern Empire of Arcadia has completed it's invasion of the desert country of Dalmasca and brought it under their control.

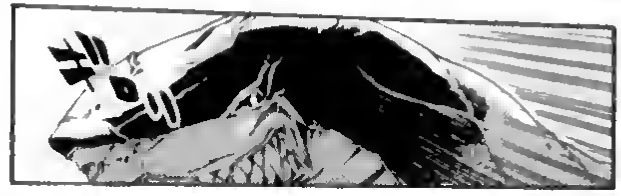
Chapter 1: The Price of Justice

FINAL FANTASY XII

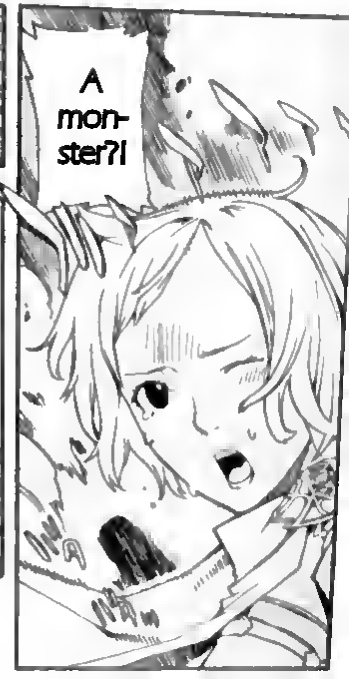
The Dawn Shard... that's our goal.
Nam-Yensa Sand Sea
It lies to the west of the Sandsea, in the Valley of the Dead.
This sure is a strange place for a jewel.
That's it?
?
.. If it hasn't already been stolen.

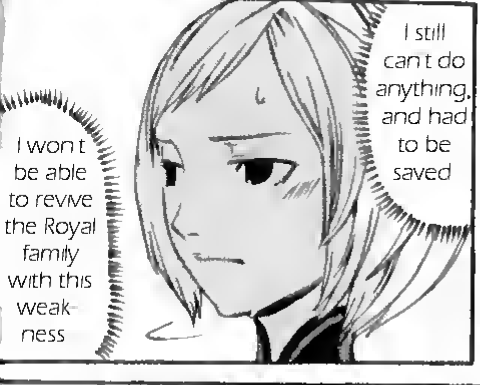


Rasler!
You won't stop me from completing my mission!
I am the princess of Dalmasca Though I may may encounter a thousand monsters
Please lend me your power, father



Please run, Your Highness!
Is this the 'mysterious bird' the caravans were talking about?!


A monster?!


I won't be able to revive the Royal family with this weakness
I still can't do anything, and had to be saved

I still

I need I need to become stronger
I need more power

T-thank you, Basch...
Are you unhurt, your highness?

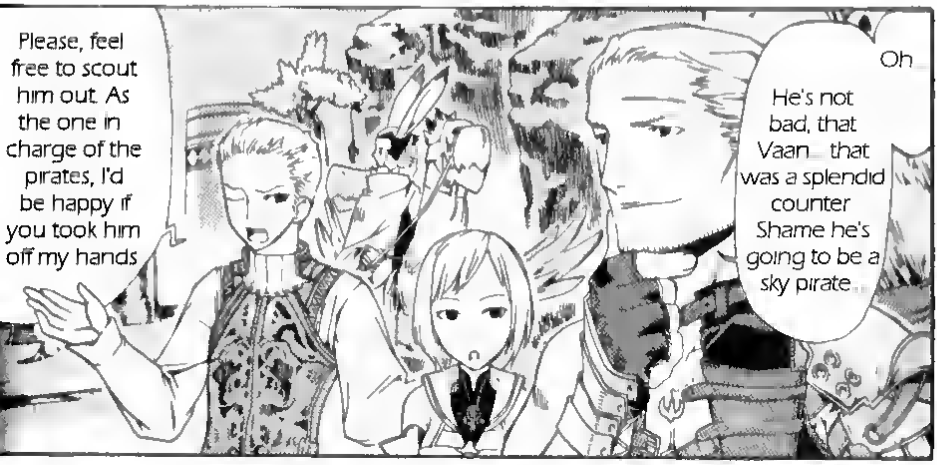
Wait, Vossler.
All right! Basch, let's go and give it back double!
Nn?
Are you hurt? Your highness!
Yes, I'm fine, Vossler.
Let's just be glad her highness is unhurt, and leave while that guy is eating. Best not to take an unnecessary risk and get someone killed.
What are you saying, Basch?!
Let's forget it and just keep moving.
We'd best not linger.
The Urutan-Yensa tribe probably heard the uproar we made.

It seems we won't be able to do so, great captain.
Even so,
What do you mean? Explain yourself
I would also heartily recommend a tactical retreat, but...
Balthier!!?
.....The hot-blooded idiot.
!?

Just watch, I'll take care of this guy no problem!
Vaan?!
Since I'm aiming to become a sky pirate, I'm enough to deal with this bird.
Give me a break, I was a little busy
Balthier, why didn't you stop him!?
?
Vaan, get back here!

Aah——
Hey, Vaan, are you listening to me~?
Where do you think you're going, just leaving your chocobo here? It would have run off!
I'm listening, I'm listening, all right? Now just watch, you're in my way!
Only if you promise not to anything dangerous~
Geez——
Ah! How mean~
Before that, Penelo, you——
Anyways Vaan——
This guy...
Vaan!! The monster is...!!

You're predictable, you monster bird--!!
Vaan


Please, feel free to scout him out. As the one in charge of the pirates, I'd be happy if you took him off my hands
Oh
He's not bad, that Vaan... that was a splendid counter
Shame he's going to be a sky pirate...

Damn it, Vaan is-
Is it trying to flee?

Were you watching Penelo-kun?
Once I made a decision to do some-thing-
Eh?
Uwa- M-my clothes
Kya

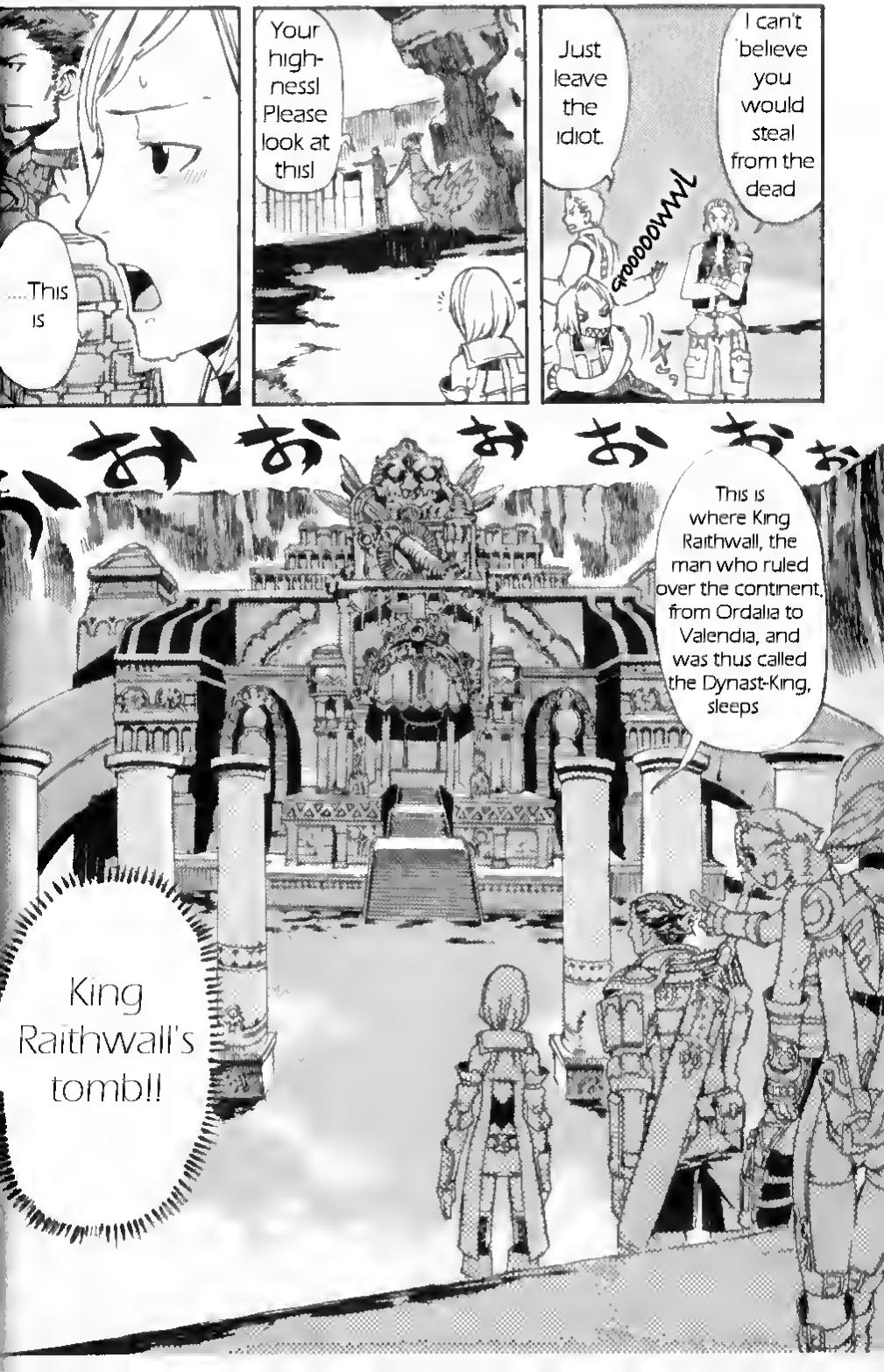
!!
Vaan!

But he knows his place
He's three years too early to be a sky pirate
After all,
The one to deal the finishing blow should be the leading man.
Don't rush, Princess. The sun was behind it, so my aim was a bit off
Balthier, that wasn't the finishing blow. Please hurry and-
!?

Nice assist, Fran!
Kya~

Gasp
I'm-
Wh-
U-Un-hand me, you boor!
Ahh, but if I hadn't, your ears would be ringing, Princess
How pitiful. I'm reading too much into that pirate's actions.
Your concern was unnecessary.

These are... bones?
Looks like they're all tomb raiders. Seems like that bird's killed a lot of them, don't you think?
Heh heh heh-
It's fine, I'm only taking one. And it's for the sake of buying an airship, right?
Stop it, Vaan, or you'll get cursed!
Oh- This ring looks expensive
Wa
Hey-
Stop it. Steal a dead raider's things and your luck will run off.


....This is
Your high-ness! Please look at this!
Just leave the idiot.
I can't believe you would steal from the dead
grooooowwl
おおおお

Yes...
You became the last of the royal line.
When the Archadian Empire invaded Dalmasca...
The jewel that can be found here in Raithwall's tomb...
One that's enough to prove my lineage.
There is one.
However, right now we have no proof of your lineage.
It was good fortune that her highness survived.
The Dawn Shard.

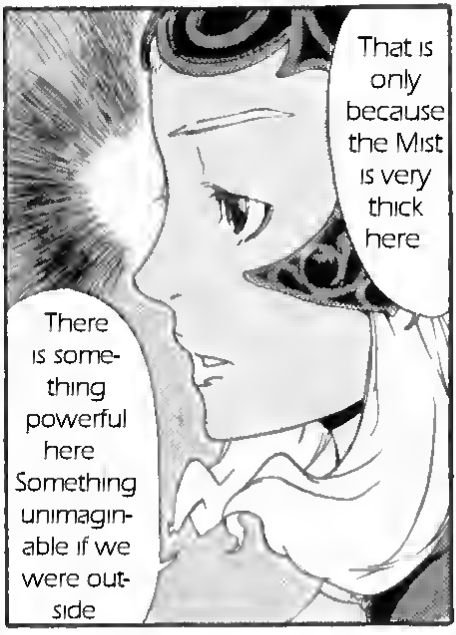
But who knows what kind of havoc those sky pirates will wreak. I do not approve of their accompanying us
Stop it, Vossler. We need their help
As Generals of Dalmasca, we must support Her Highness
Yes... that is our motive.
That's right.
Right now my incredible weakness is obvious
Vossler
Our mission is the freedom of our country.
You saw them fight earlier, didn't you? We can ignore small things for the sake of our mission

Rasler please watch me Here, I shall surely gain the power I need
Yes
It is as Your Highness says
Such magnif-icence...
Ooh!

It is Mist.
There's fog underground
Mist is what lets people perform magic, right?
Yet we can see it?

Don't touch it, Vaan. That's reckless
This looks like it would sell for a lot, doesn't it, Balthier?

Is it dangerous?
Something powerful
Nod


That is only because the Mist is very thick here
There is something powerful here Something unimaginable if we were outside

Since Vaan is always so reckless, I've got to be the reliable one.
I'll remember that.
Is that it?
So if we don't have the qualification to be here, our lives are forfeit.
Hey, stop it.
Keep your filthy hands off that...
!!
I see. He's always reckless, was it?
Uwa- The wall is-

Vaan!! That's why I told you time and again not to touch anything suspicious!
Ow-
I didn't..
Kya
Ugh

It's like we've got caught in every last trap
Vaan... Please cut it out.
Pant
Haa
Haa
Pant
Listen. Isn't this the fault of the one who wouldn't throw away that ring earlier?
I'm not doing it on purpose! Besides, isn't it your fault for hitting me, Balthier?
?
N-no way! The traps have nothing to do with the ring!!
Vaan, throw it away!

Seems like he was a pretty strict person.

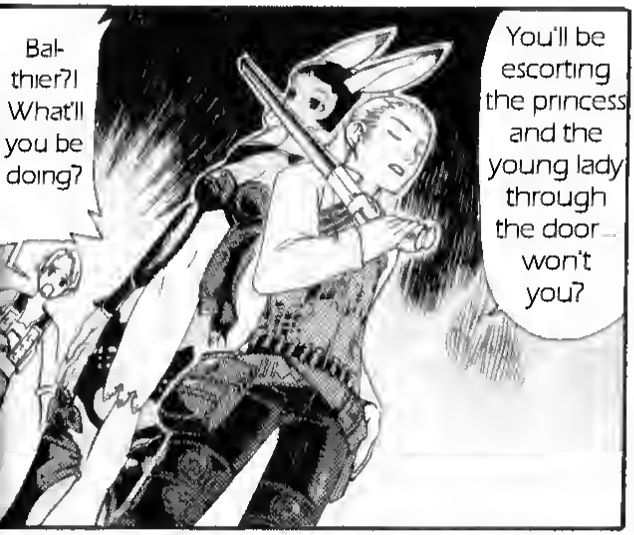
Hey, Hey
The Dynast-King..

I-It melted the floor?!
It seems our situation has got- ten bad
It seems this is the Esper the Dynast- King is said to have controlled
Then, this is...!?

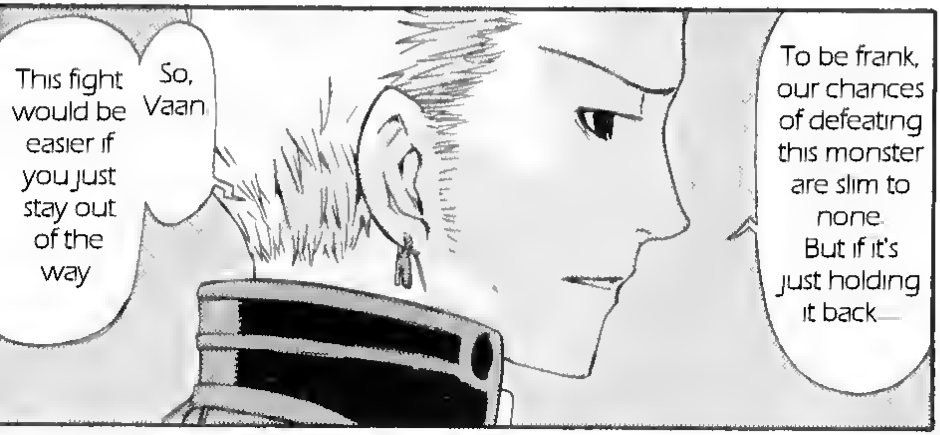
Look behind the Esper, your highness ...That door
Please leave this place to me, your highness, and go on ahead
Vossler? What are you saying?
This Esper is likely the last protection for the treasure within
Inside waits the sleeping symbol of royal blood, left by the Dynast-King- The Dawn Shard!
Your highness, go through the door!
I will hold him back until then
And if this Esper obeyed the Dynast-King, if we get a hold of the Dawn Shard...

!?
That's right. Vossler alone is not enough.

W-Why are you considering it?! It's easy to see what would happen if he went against that monster alone!
.....


Balthier?! What'll you be doing?
You'll be escorting the princess and the young lady through the door... won't you?

Vaan!!


This fight would be easier if you just stay out of the way
So, Vaan
To be frank, our chances of defeating this monster are slim to none. But if it's just holding it back...

Vaan
Stop messing around! I can fight, too, so don't look down on me!
.....
.....
It will be dangerous beyond that door as well. When that time comes, use your sword and protect her highness
Vossler and I would like to protect her, truly But we're leaving that to you
All right!! Let's go!!!
Got it.
Vaan!!

Let's open a path for her highness!

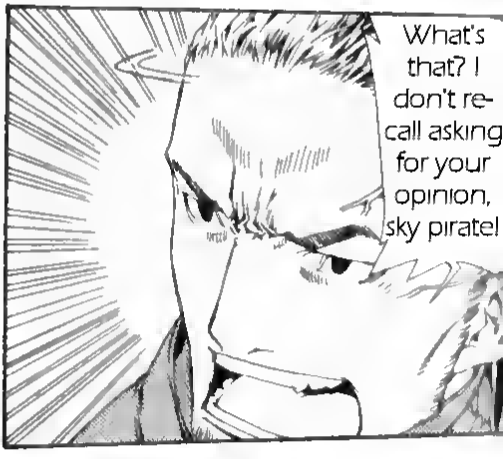
Pene-
lo,
hurry!
?
Could it be it won't open unless we defeat the Esper?!
...It won't open?!

Ashe, look up!
It's size... It seems big enough.
A ventilation shaft?

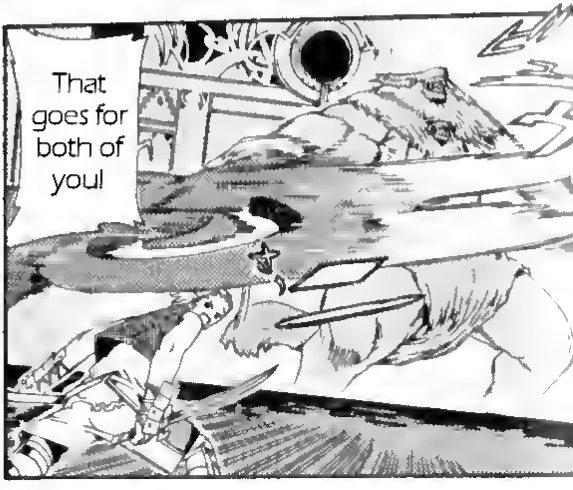
I'm surrounded by amateurs Captain, don't go at it from the front!

Ku-
!?

I said it for your sake! Or do you want another hole in your head?!


What's that? I don't recall asking for your opinion, sky pirate!

Bal-
Tch-
thier!


That goes for both of you!

This is why I didn't want any low-born trash travelling with us
That's enough, Vossler! Now isn't the time for...
!?

Basch!!
Ah~~~ Yes, yes, but now's not really the time to be talking about that, is it?
This is your fault, you bastard pirates!!
Damn!! Fran, we need White Magic, fast!!!
Basch

If one of us goes and helps, we can beat him for sure!

Ashe!
は、?

Why?! Everyone will...

Why is it that we came here? Think about it once more.

...No

We came to restore Dalmasca!
It is for that reason we came here, and no matter what the price, we must obtain the Dawn Shard... obtain power! Do you understand?!
Basch must have told you to protect me. That is your mission now!
Trouble
Trouble
I don't get what you're saying—!
!-

Basch and Vossler are fighting for the revival of Dalmasca.
Even if they lose their lives here, they will have no regrets.
That.
Are you serious?!
I'm serious.
To complete my mission as Dalmasca's Princess.. I need power.

Even you! You want power to become a sky pirate, and get an airship, and you stole from a dead man for that!
Of course!
Isn't that right!?
Power, Power! Is that all you care about?!
I'm an idiot, so I can't really understand what the Lady Princess is saying
But the really sad thing are the ones you really shouldn't forget.
I lost my brother in the war, too
.....

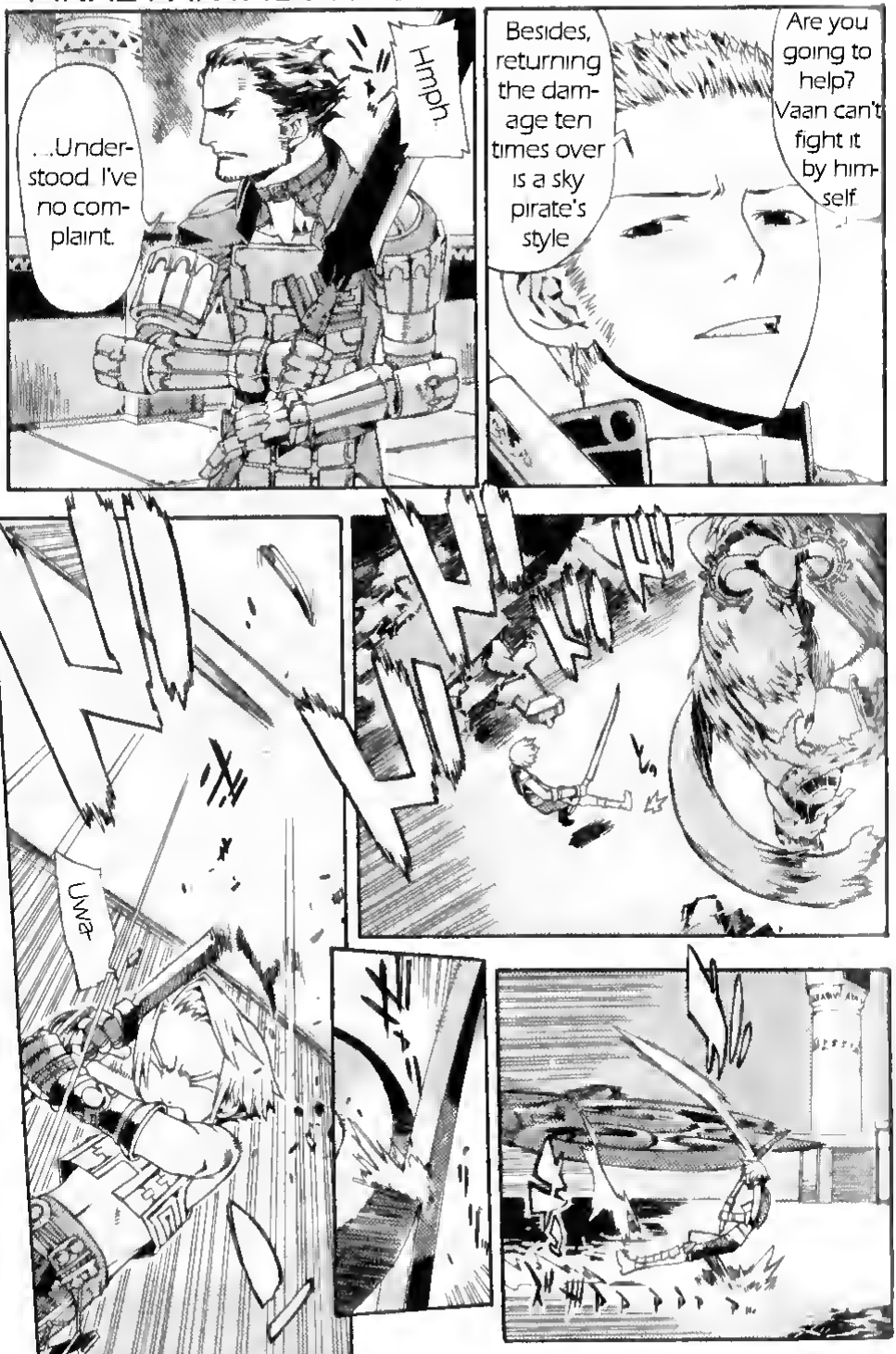
Before, the most important thing to me was revenge
He actually threw it away
But I'll say this
But this is now!!
Now, if my friends are in danger, I have to save them!!

Vaan, get back here!!
Bl-e-h
Twitch Twitch
Gah
Vaan That child
I'm sorry, your highness, he's always like that...
But,

All the orphans we lived with Downtown, we sort of made him into our leader.
That's why, to him, more than others, the most important thing is
Friends.
Vaan, wait
BOW

Even if I'm by myself, I will complete my mission.
I'm...
Not wrong
Over here, monster! The great future pirate, Vaan, is your opponent!
キン
!
OOOOOH

Vaan?! Did he leave her highness behind?!
Daar
Hey. Great Captain


Hmph
...Understood. I've no complaint.
Are you going to help? Vaan can't fight it by himself
Besides, returning the damage ten times over is a sky pirate's style
Uwa

Vaaniii?
...I will complete my mission
?

My mission as princess of Dalmasca!!
The Dalmasca I want to revive is not earth, but the people!
A magic barrier?
This is
What country could be revived without first protecting its people?!
What royal family would sacrifice its generals?!

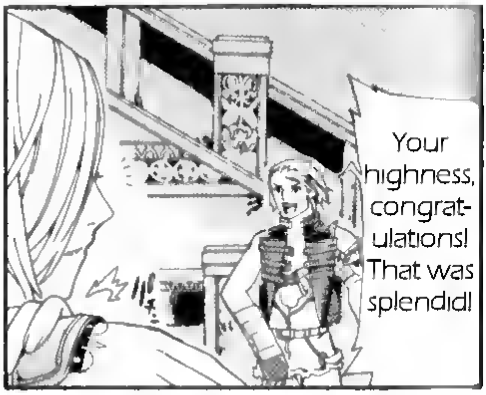
Swallow
Long live Dalma-asca..
L...
Be-cause..
You're our friend
Hehe I knew you'd come back
?
You stay there
Turn

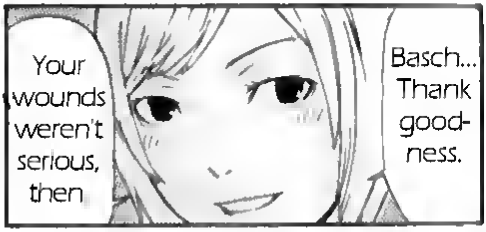
Vossler, with me! To destroy our enemy!
Yes!!
Fu-
Vaan, use that. It's the Master's sword.
Basch's?
ヒュッ
Wah

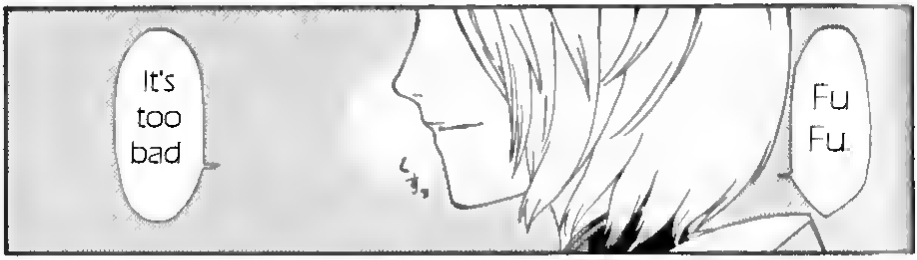
Thank you, Fran. I'm all right now
Shyuuuu
More importantly, the battle how did it end?
!!
Oh...

With this, the Dynast King's Esper... has become my power.
!

Which reminds me... you wanted Vaan to be a knight, correct?
Eh?
Ah. Yes.


Your highness, congratulations! That was splendid!


Basch... Thank goodness.
Your wounds weren't serious, then.


It's too bad
Fu Fu.

Y-
Yes...
.....?

We can't allow a knight who abandons his mission in the middle.
Vaan
He's a sky pirate to the core.

I've been waiting for it
!!!
Have you thought about it? The Dynast-King's treasure how are you going to use it?
Soon enou-gh
This is the wealth of a king who controlled two cont-inents. You could buy ten
You're think-ing too small
Will there be enough to buy an airship, I wonder?
Thiev-es..
Teh
Hold your tongue, Vossler
Hey, hey With just the five of us, there's no way we could move that.
Ha ha ha
For real?! All right, then I'll buy one as big as the Emp-ire's Ifrit!

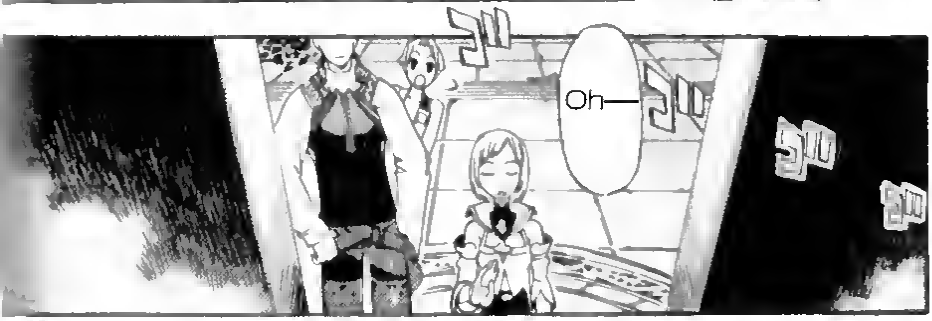
Yes.
As your highness says.

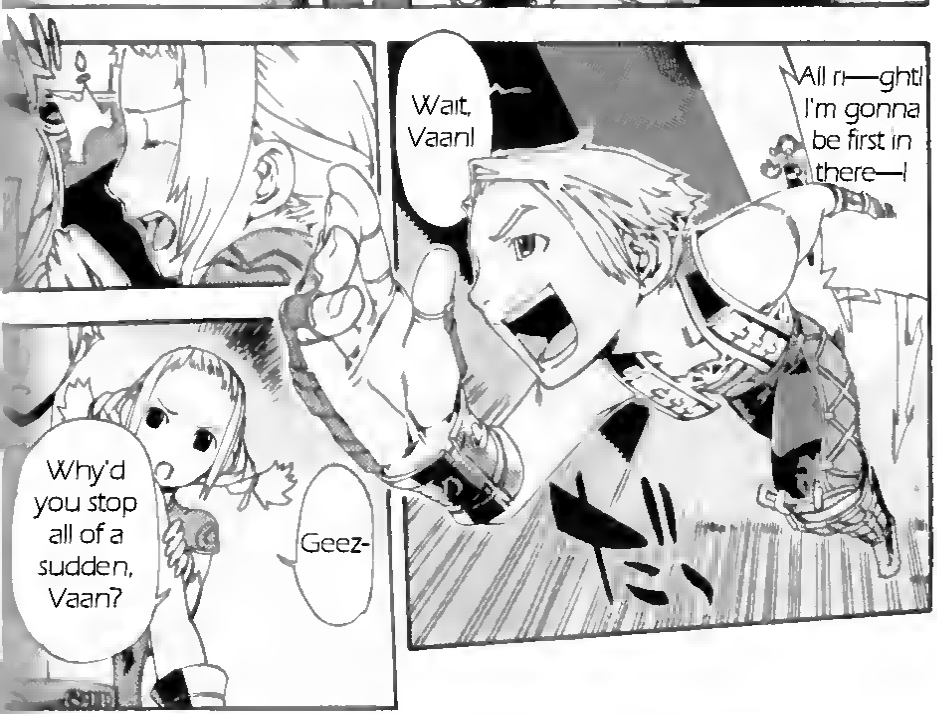
.....

It's because of their help we were victor-ious
I think it's only right we give them a reward

I'm sure a dog could manage to wait a bit longer.

Hurry and open it, Princess Even a faith-ful dog would bite if you made it wait this long


Oh—


Wait, Vaan!
All r—ght! I'm gonna be first in there—!
Why'd you stop all of a sudden, Vaan?
Geez-

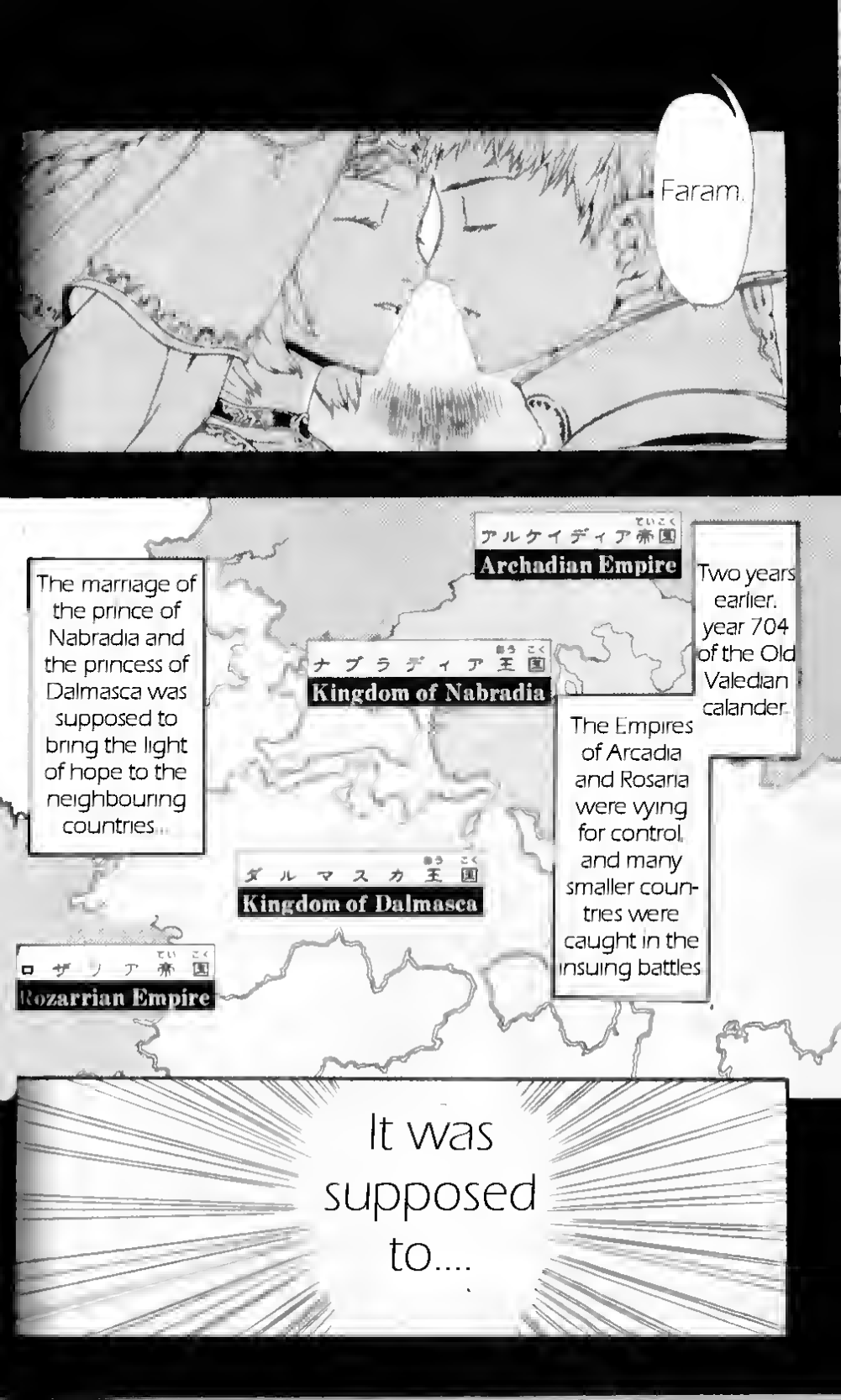
Eh-...?
Th-
There's ...no treas-ure?!
No
What's the mean-ing of this? Was it tomb robbers?!
I can't see it being tomb robbers

Hey, hey, give me a break. It's a nice story, but it doesn't fill my wallet.
That Esper we fought protected King and Country That makes it a treasure, don't you think?
?
What's the matter, your high-ness?
Ras-ler ..?
!?
Uu..

Balthier, do you see anything?!
No, nothing
This is bad! I don't know whether it's because of the Esper or the strong mist.
Your highness!
Get a hold of yourself! There's no one there—
No-!!
Fran!!
I, too, can see nothing. Only a thick mist.
Vaan?
T-There is Right there. You guys can't see him? He...
He was definitely there
Only Vaan and I saw him, but he was...

Go—ng
Go—ng
Ras-
ler.
Go—ng
Go—ng

Going
Rasler, you are
In the name of our great father,
I hereby pronounce you husband an wife.
May God look graciously upon you and bless you,
As you go forward down your path in life—

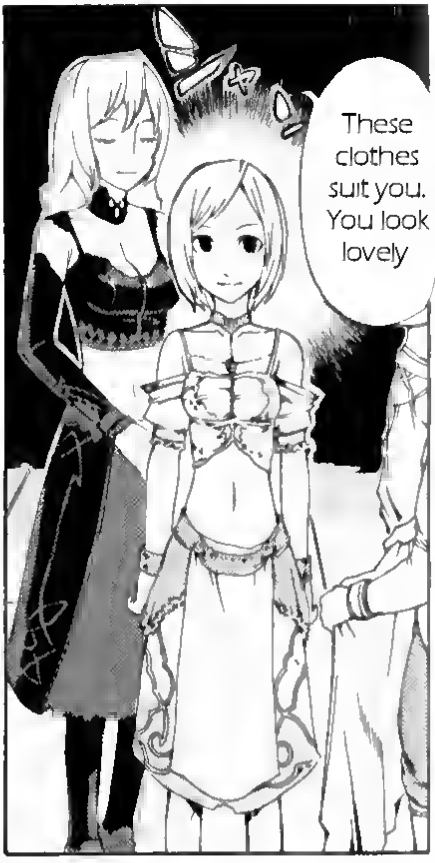

Faram.
アルケイディア帝国
Archadian Empire
Two years earlier, year 704 of the Old Valedian calander.
The marriage of the prince of Nabradia and the princess of Dalmasca was supposed to bring the light of hope to the neighbouring countries...
ナブラディア王国
Kingdom of Nabradia
The Empires of Arcadia and Rosaria were vying for control, and many smaller countries were caught in the insuing battles
ダルマスカ王国
Kingdom of Dalmasca
ロザリア帝国
Rozarrian Empire
It was supposed to....

Chapter 2: Eternal Vow

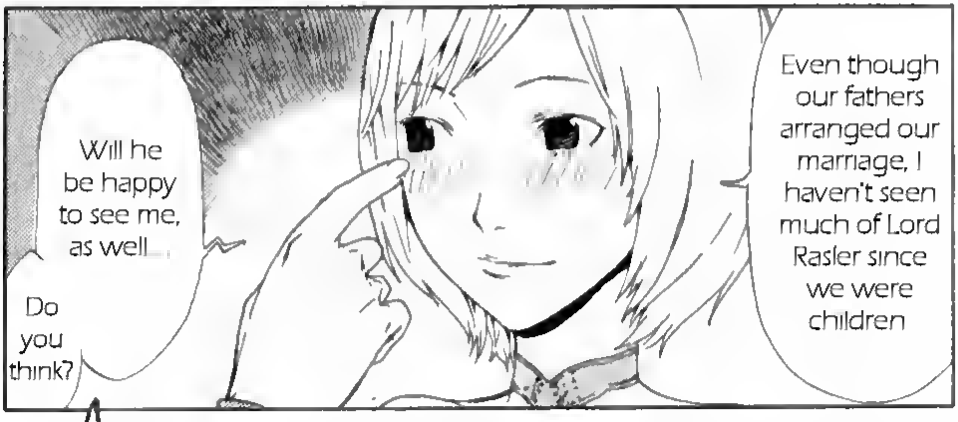
Two Years Earlier
Year 704 of the Old Valedian Calander The Royal Capital of Dalmasca, Rabanastre
Every day for me was still sparkling and warm
Your Highness
We've prepared a change of clothes
Ah, thank you very much, Marchioness Argas

*Wife/W dow of a Marquis

R-really?
Yes, of course. No man could look at you and not be moved.


These clothes suit you. You look lovely

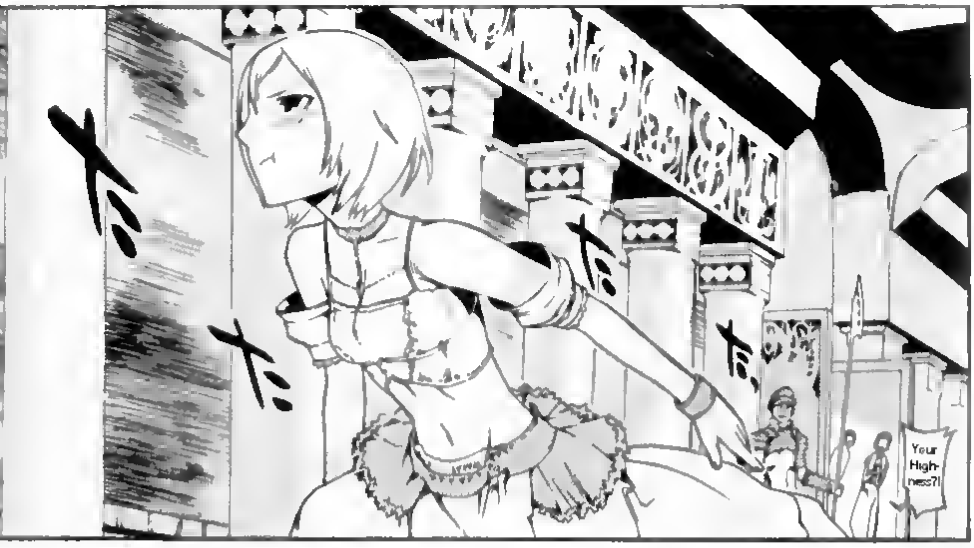
His Highness Rasler, as well

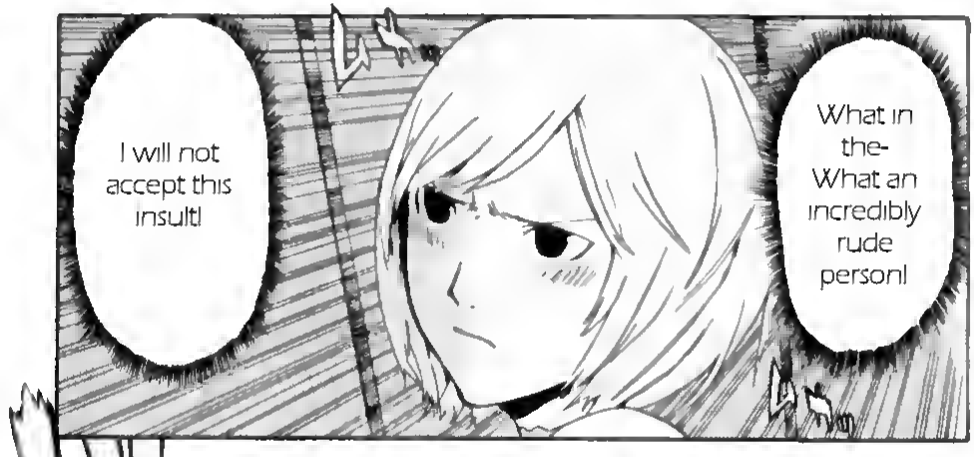

Even though our fathers arranged our marriage, I haven't seen much of Lord Rasler since we were children
Will he be happy to see me, as well...
Do you think?

I'll always be Ashe, no matter where I go
That's not true, Lady Argas
And in a few days, you'll belong to a man from a foreign country
I've always thought of Your Highness as a little sister, but you're not a child anymore, are you?
So...
Fuuuu
.....
Is that...
....Please do your best, Lady Ashe
It's all right. I'm going to find that out now
But as long as Lord Rasler treasures Lady Ashe it should be all right.
But it doesn't look like a man really knows how to be in a married couple

Glance
After hundreds of years, the time has come for B'nargin and Heios to become one family once again.
This truly is a joyous occasion.
That's Lord Rasler.... such a gallant figure!
Ashe,
That is Lord Rasler . Lord Rasler Heios Nebradia
He is the Second Prince of Nebradia
And soon, he will be your husband——
.....
Father.

I cannot be together with this person

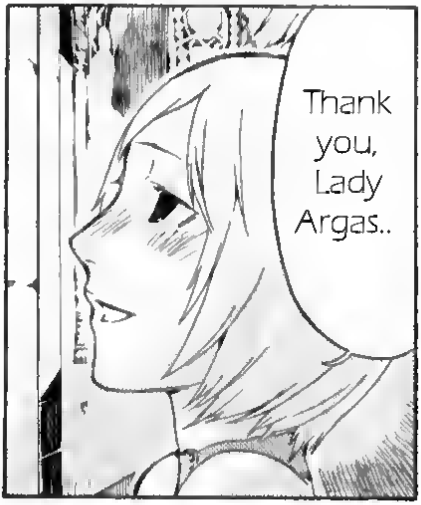

Your High-ness?!


What in the- What an incredibly rude person!
I will not accept this insult!

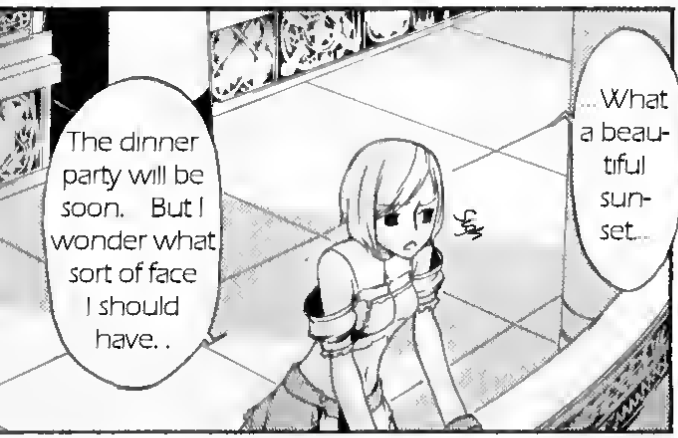
Please listen, Lady Argas~~!

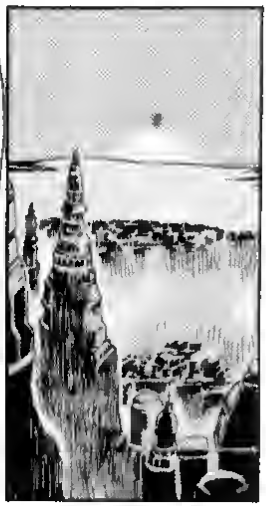
Right now, I'm only ashamed by how much it affected me.

Fufu-
There, there
Don't be
too depressed
about this.
You never
know, some
good might
come of it.
As it is,
unless you
two have a
good talk,
I don't
know
whether or
not the
ceremony
will be
canceled
Eh-?


Thank you, Lady Argas..

However, this is a political marriage, not one for your happiness
Don't worry. I will always be your ally


The dinner party will be soon. But I wonder what sort of face I should have..
...What a beautiful sunset...



Everything has been arranged
How's the plan?
Oh, it's that 'Highness', is it...
Your High-ness
*SFX: Intensely
Tonight, His Majesty King Raminas will...

Just now - What were they talking about doing to my father? Those two
Yes, sir Leave it to me
I'm counting on you
I have to find out what.
There's definitely something strange going on.
?

That was close
This keeps getting more and more suspicious...
This area is under construction, so pedestrians aren't allowed in. What could a knight of Nabradia be doing here?

……
Truly. Dalmasca's future is on the road to ruin
—Thank you for coming today, everyone

If I might introduce this evening's guest of honor——
That knight
!!
Sir Forz, Lieutenant General of Nabradia.
A faction of the Nabradian Military is of the same mind as us
So from now on, please use our companions from Nabradia as a mediator as much as possible

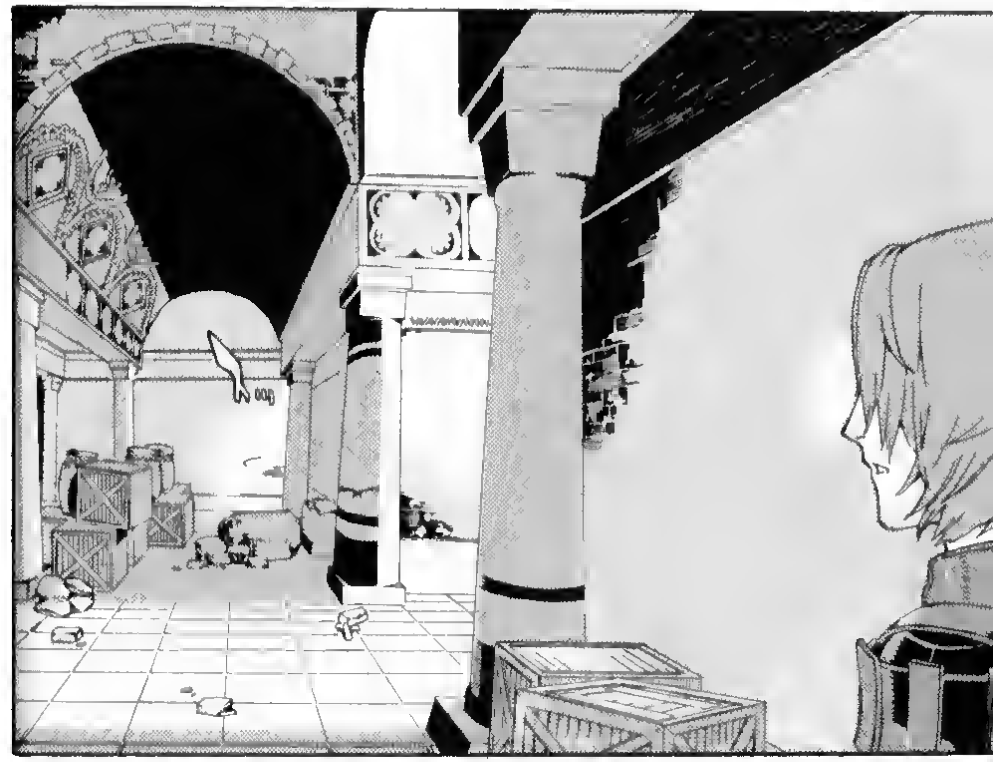
Well done
Then, this-
Who are my men this time?
Those circumstances are not yet fixed, however,
All are immigrants from Arcadia, and are fiercely loyal
At tonight's dinner party, you will have the servents, the chefs, and so on. About ten dozen people...
This way,
This is...
To-night's plan,
If we use this, it will give it meaning...
This type of sword is very popular in Arcadia...

We now have everything we need from the Arcadian Empire
Arcadian weapons...
.....
Arcadian people...
!?
For the assassination of His Majesty of Dalmasca, Raminas
It is all——
We have all been meticulous in our preparation for today

And King Raminas cannot read the flow of events
Dalmasca lacks the protection of the Rozarrian Empire
This political marriage will only weaken our influence as Rozarria's supporters and as those against Nabradia. This act is——
And so.. With this act, we shall close the distance His Majesty has developed with Rozarria!
Justice!
And strengthening our alliances with small countries like Nabradia is sheer folly!
Arcadia and Rozarria - No matter which one of them wins, Dalmasca will not survive!

Wh- What is this? So there are people who think like that here in Dalmasca.
And that knight was with Lord Rasler.
Lord Rasler must know about this
No... It might be that Lord Rasler
Is the conspiracy leader?!
Kyaa
Is there someone outside?
!?

I've been discov ered?! I have to get away!
But,
Where to?!
What should I do? My body won't stop shak- ing
I can't move!!
Mm?



That cannot be!! Riff, Laila, go and patrol around
It doesn't seem... like there's anyone here.

.....

If you find anything even the slightest bit suspicious,
Take care of it!

Why were you doing something so stupid?! If I weren't here, what would you have done then-
Lord Rasler?!
Silence-
Wasn't that plot Nabradia's true intention all along?!
How dare-
How dare you ...!!

Eh?
Lady Ashel
What? What was that sound?

Wait.

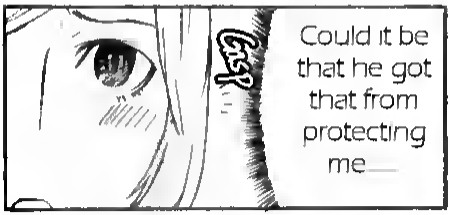
The construction here was being done to repair this decrepit area. Of course, the scaffold is fragile.

.....

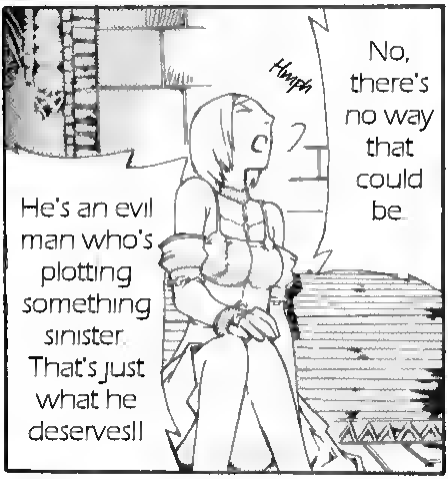
Below here is the waterways. It will be fine if we ignore it.
...So it fell?

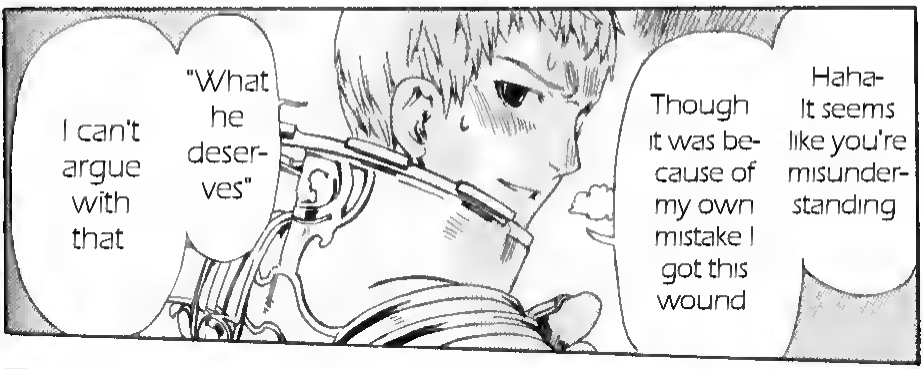
Oh my
You went to all the trouble to prepare this banquet, but Rasler is nowhere to be found. I'm very sorry, King Raminas
Not at all... The truth is, Ashe, too...
Hrm.
If they were to meet again, it would simply be awkward. They should just be left in peace for now
Uu-
Ru
Gu
Ra

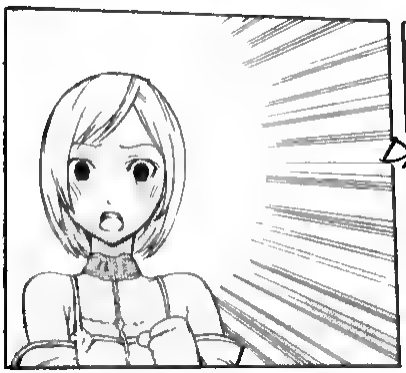
Hey
...This place is?
Nn-
Waa
I've never been in that sort of position before I can no longer be a bride!

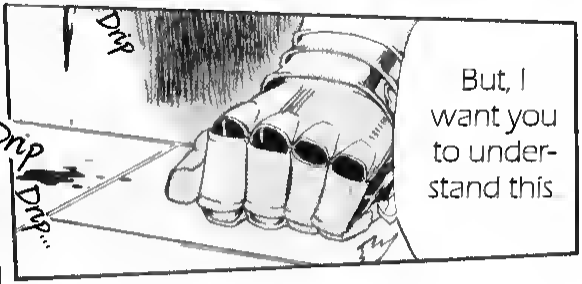

Gasp
Could it be that he got that from protecting me...

He's wounded?!

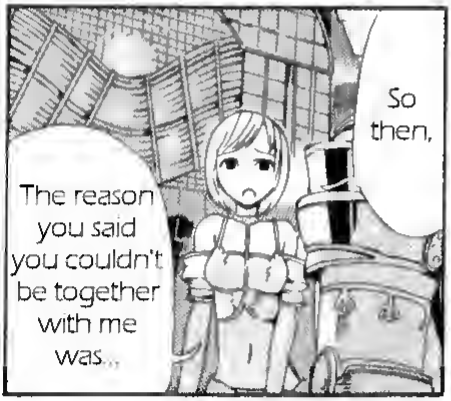

Humph
No, there's no way that could be.
He's an evil man who's plotting something sinister. That's just what he deserves!!

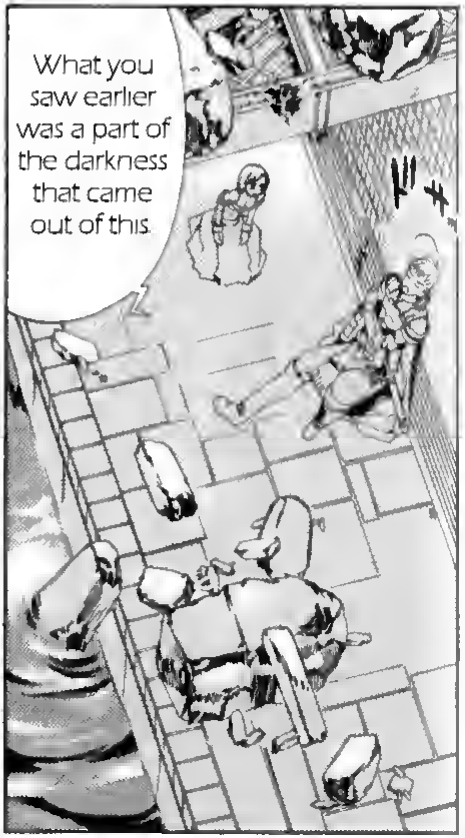

I can't argue with that
"What he deserves"
Though it was because of my own mistake I got this wound
Haha- It seems like you're misunderstanding

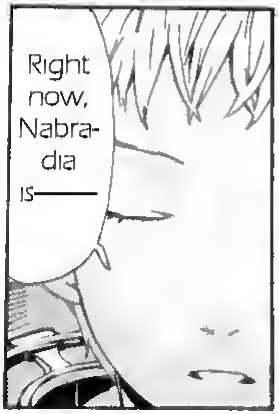



Drip
Drip
Drip...
But, I want you to understand this.

There aren't any alternatives
And either of those could lead us to ruin
So no one can make a decision, and constantly argue
Dalmasca and Nabradia,
They're both caught between the empires of Rozarria and Arcadia, and have to choose between them.


So then,
The reason you said you couldn't be together with me was...


What you saw earlier was a part of the darkness that came out of this.


Right now, Nabradia is——

Divided.
There are those who oppose Emperial rule and want to strengthen our alliance with Dalmasca, the Anti-Rozarria Independance Faction.
And those who think we should enter Rozarria's protection to defy Arcadia, the Neo-Rozarria Faction.
I left Nabradia to stop the two from falling into civil war.
There was a rumor that the Neo-Rozarria Faction was plotting something vile in Dalmasca.
And if I didn't put a distance between us, you would be in danger from assassins.
I see...
So he really was thinking of me...
!
Ru
Whoa
Whoa
Wait, wh-what are you...!?

Your arm It's still bleeding
Eh?
Oh
You've changed a little, Lord Rasler.
...How can I put it? It's like you've become an adult
You haven't changed at all You're still strong, and kind just like when we were children
Rasler.

It's all right if you just call me Rasler, without a title, Lady Ashe.
Ah...
Yes
T-then you may also
Just call me... Ashe.
?
What is this - the water level is rising!?
Water!?

I'm borrowing this!!
My sword?! How are you-?

If we don't hurry...
If the gates are closing, than dinner ended long ago
The Garamsythe Waterway's sluice gate automatically opens and closes at regular times each day
Ha!!

Only a few people know this waterway can be used to get into the palace. We'll go up from there.
Please wait! It's dangerous to go alone!

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

Every-
thing's
going well.
The wine
has done
its job.
Fu
fu
fu.
This,
too,
will be
easy.
Forgive
our
intrusion,
Your
Majesty.
Forgive
me,
King
Raminas.
Every-
thing
is for-
Dalm-
asca's
future!

Stop right there!
Father!
Thank goodness, we made it in time
My, my
It is troubling if it's the princess
That voice .....
Could you be?!

You're the last person I wanted to see.
But I guess you've seen.
So it is you... Lady Argas.
But why are you doing this?
I suppose it's impossible for you to understand, but,
This alliance with Nabradia has no meaning.
Dalmasca should borrow Rozarria's power and use it to fight Arcadia. That is the best route.

And for that, my father-
Yes. And you will become Queen.
Which means I would be the Queen's most trusted advisor.
Ashe. Please return my sword. I'll do something about this.
No.

Tremble
That person is my...
Tremble
How can you say that when you're shaking so much?!
Fufu Of course. This is your first time pointing a sword at a person, after all
Are you bluffing?
Such a cute child There's no need I will always be your ally.
Come over here.
For the sake of Dalmasca
.....
I...
Tremble
Really loved you like a sister
Tremble
However-

Please do not say 'for the sake of Dalmasca' anymore.
Please do not call yourself my ally.
You are nothing but a traitor....
drip
drip
Squeeze
To my father.
To me.
To Dalmasca.
It was all lies and betrayal!!
I'm not shaking because I'm bluffing!!!
Drip
Drip

It's bec-
ause
I hate you!
Pride will not prot-
ect a country
Dalmasca and Nab-radia will live proudly together!
And even if I became Queen, I would never ally with either empire

That's the first thing you'll have to learn

Certainly, we're not making much headway.
There's too many of them!

Well now, what's the matter? You had better hurry and defeat them with your pride
!?
Stop, March-ioness!
Cackle
If you don't hurry, you won't be able to protect anything
Anything at all that you want to protect
You're too late to stop me!!
ヒュ〜

?
Stagger
Ha
Why are *you* here...
Why?
Why?

Captain Basch Fon Rosen-berg!!!
Basch!! Vossler!!
That's far enough!
Any who resist will be cut down without mercy!

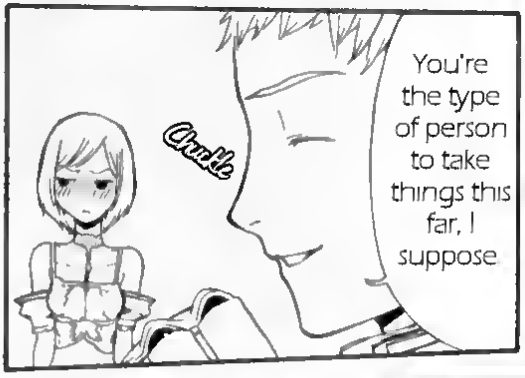
How could this happen... Everything was going perfectly...
H...
I am the geniune article of Lieutenant-General Forz
GASP
You are-
Ku ku ku
Pardon me
Which reminds me, I never did properly introduce myself

Wobble
Explain! What is going on? Where's my father? And that knight.
Cap-tain Basch!
Your Highness, are you hurt!?

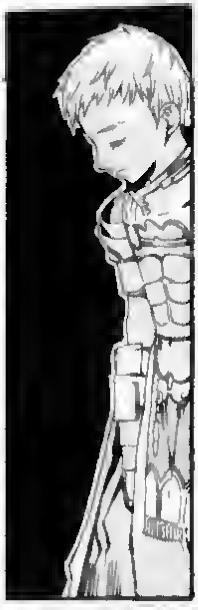
He was placed inside the Rozarria faction as a spy in case they ever moved
He is my subordinate
His Majesty is already resting in a seperate room
They were all biding their time in Dalmasca, so the plan was to round up the Rozarrian dogs in one fell swoop
We also captured all the Neo-Rozarrian Faction noblemen the Marchioness had gathered
.....
Not at all It would not have worked if you two had not acted so swiftly
And to think it went so well
Indeed
But when His Highness Rasler offered to do this, I was a bit surprised

I apologize. I really should have told you, but,
To be honest, you caught me off-guard

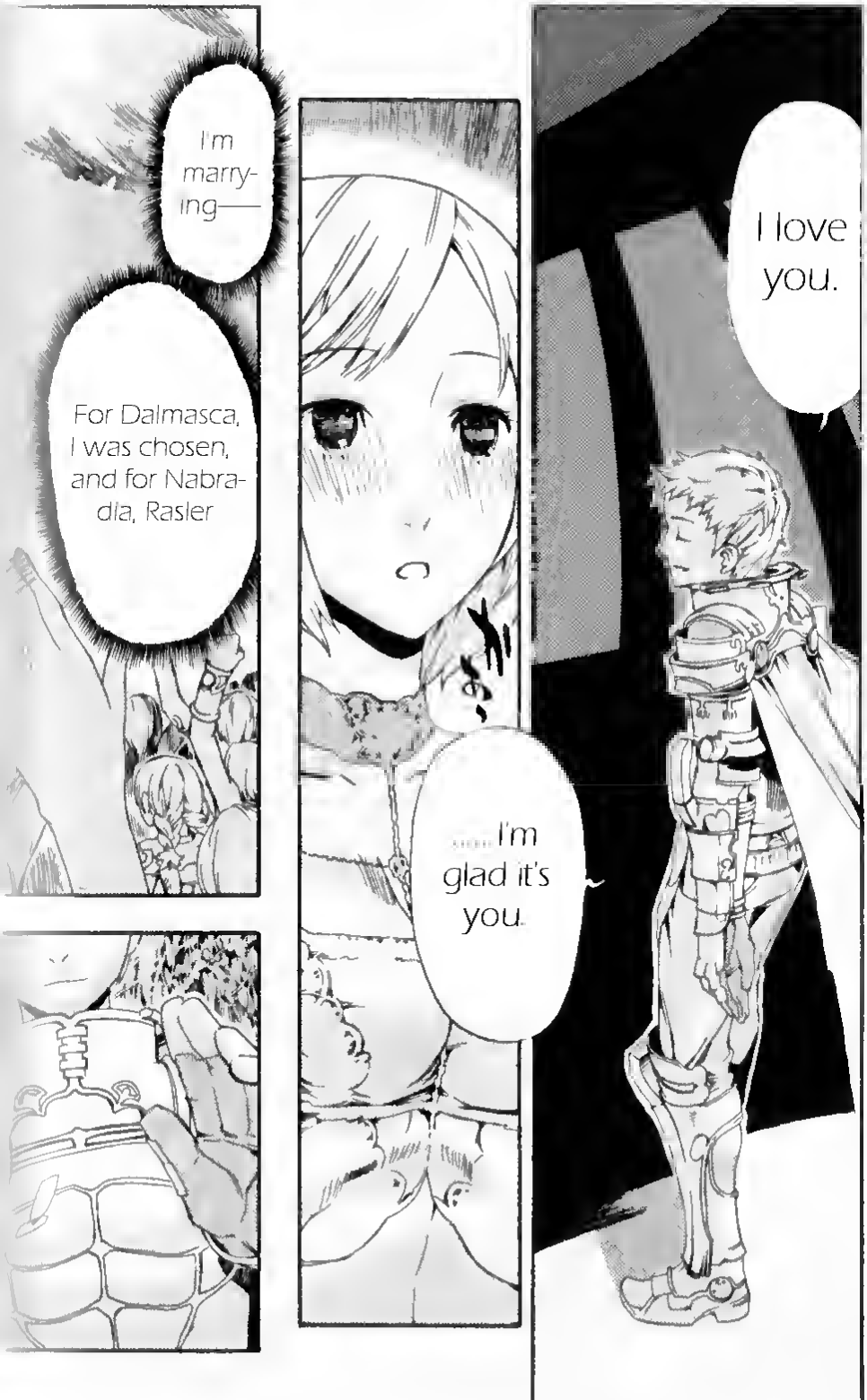
Then, I was the only one who didn't know about Rasler? I was the only one who was suspicious?


You're the type of person to take things this far, I suppose
Chuckle

Yes, of course I know
You're strong, kind, and honest, Ashe
Because you're like that, I definitely...



P-please don't laugh!
It was for my father and my country, so of course...


I'm marry-ing——
For Dalmasca, I was chosen, and for Nabra-dia, Rasler
.....I'm glad it's you.
I love you.

The ceremony was delayed, but ran smoothly nonetheless
For a full cycle of the moon
I was certain...

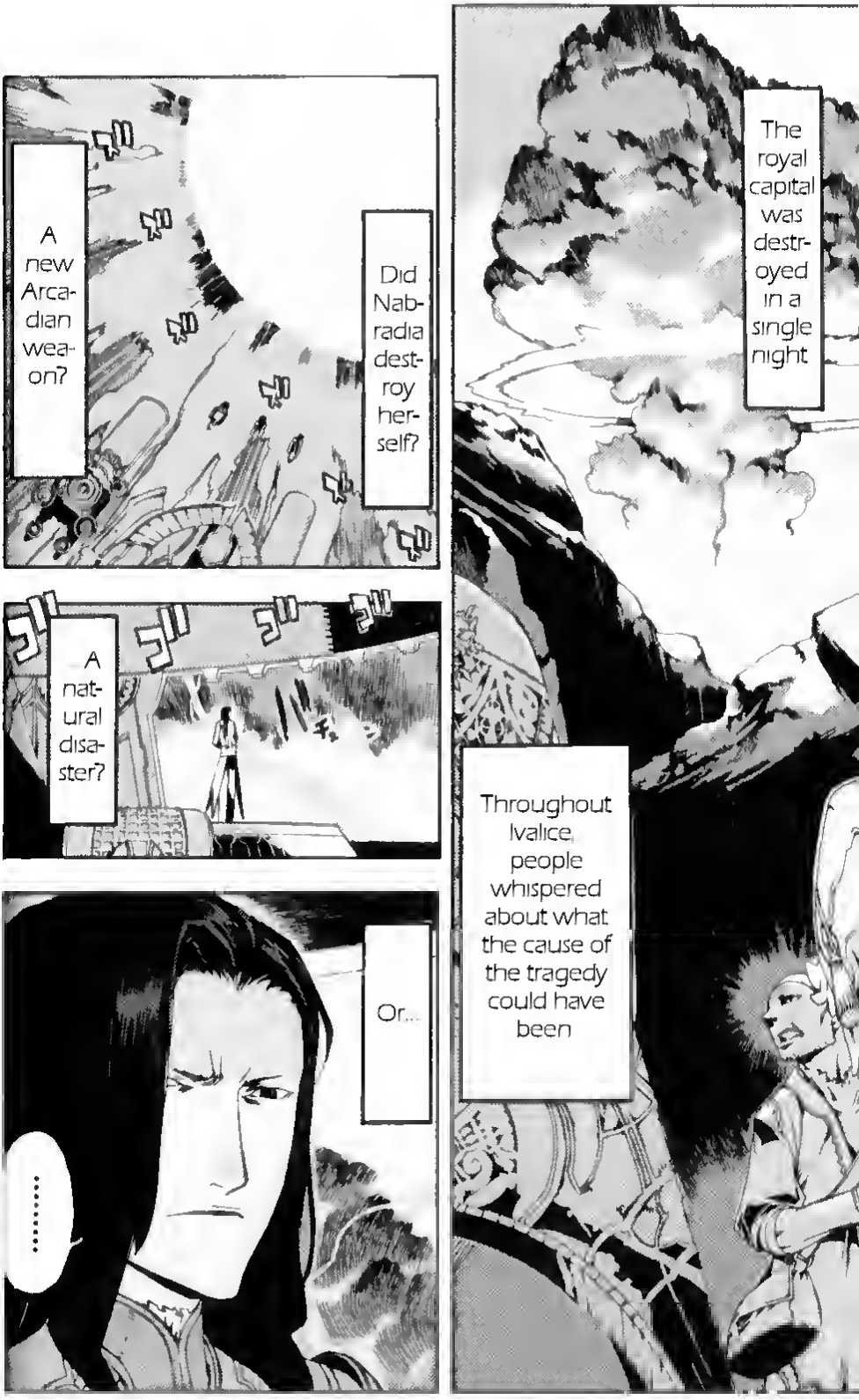
That no one could tear our bonds asunder, and they would last forever.

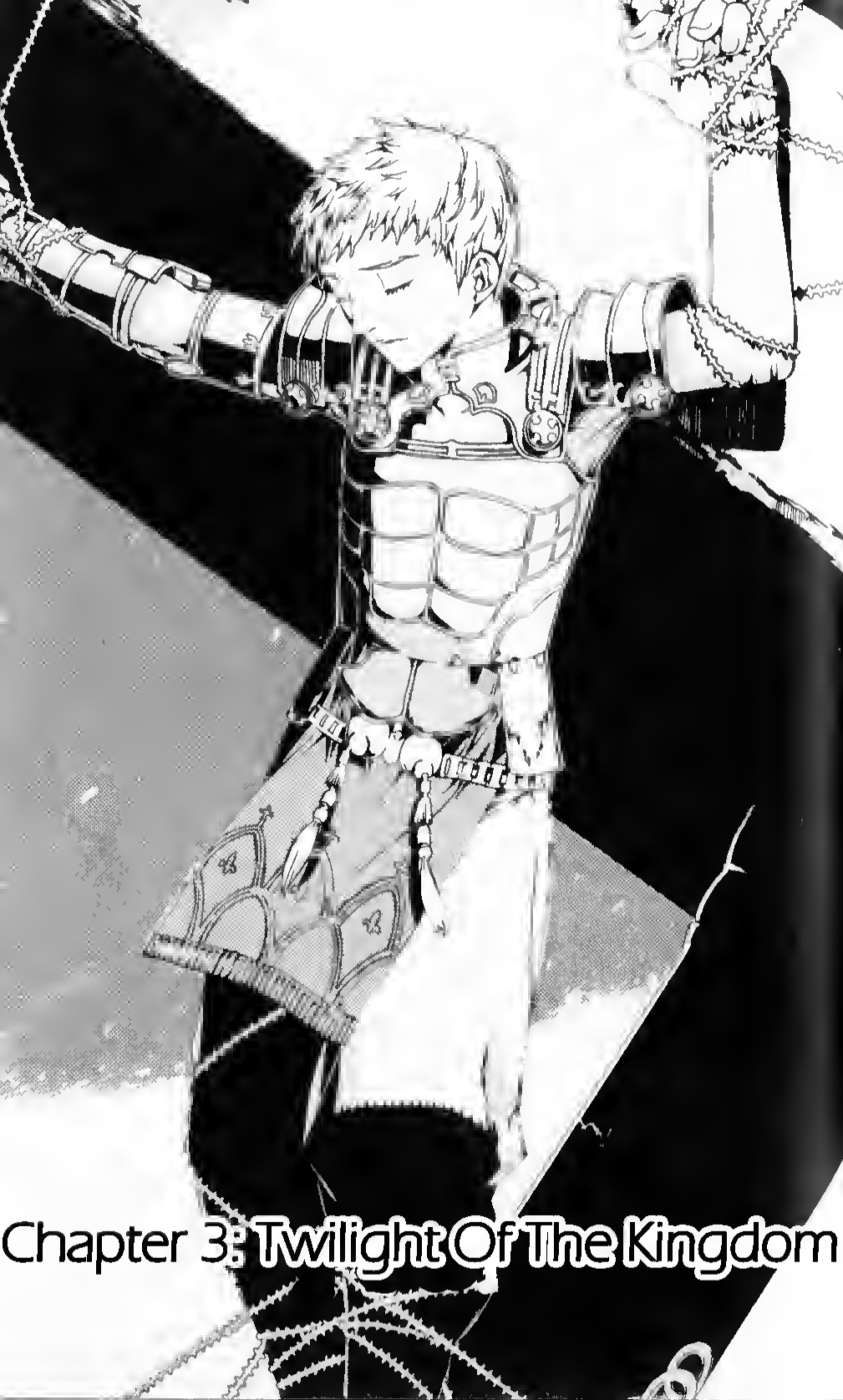
——Back then,
I really thought that....

The Imperial Capital of Arcadia, Archedes
So the Rozarrian Faction was rejected.... and Dalmasca is united, is it?
That Raminas... even old, he's a shrewd man.
However... It seems it's different in Nabradia.
The Neo-Rozarria Faction was cornered, and took up arms to defend itself.
Fu-
Prepare to issue an order - We're dispatching the army to the south!

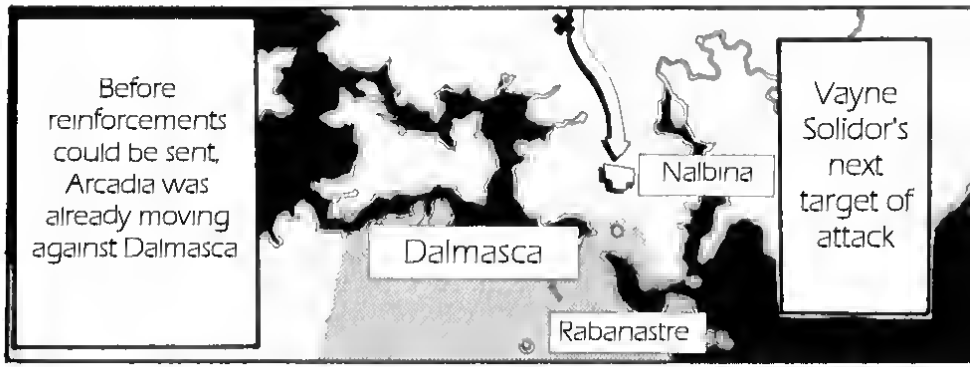
The fear of Nabradia falling into civil war is threatening the peace of Ivalice! We, the Arcadian Empire, shall act as guardians of Law and Justice!
I, Vayne Salvatore, shall personally destroy those who would threaten the established order!

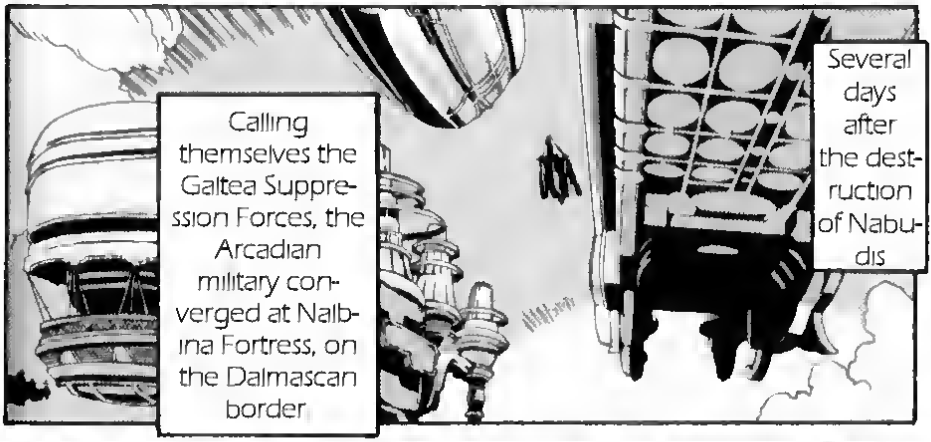
Taking advantage of this, Arcadia invaded the royal capital of Nabudis, and within days had it under seige
Arcadian Empire
Nabudis
Nabradia
The rivalry between the factions in Nabradia sparked a civil war.
Several days after Princess Ashe's, of Dalmasca, marriage to Prince Rasler, of Nabradia
The year is 704 of the Old Valedian Calander.
engulfed in a gigantic explosion from an unknown source.
That night, the royal capital of Nabudis was
?


The royal capital was destroyed in a single night
Throughout Ivalice, people whispered about what the cause of the tragedy could have been
Did Nabradia destroy herself?
A new Arcadian weapon?
A natural disaster?
Or...
.....



Chapter 3: Twilight Of The Kingdom

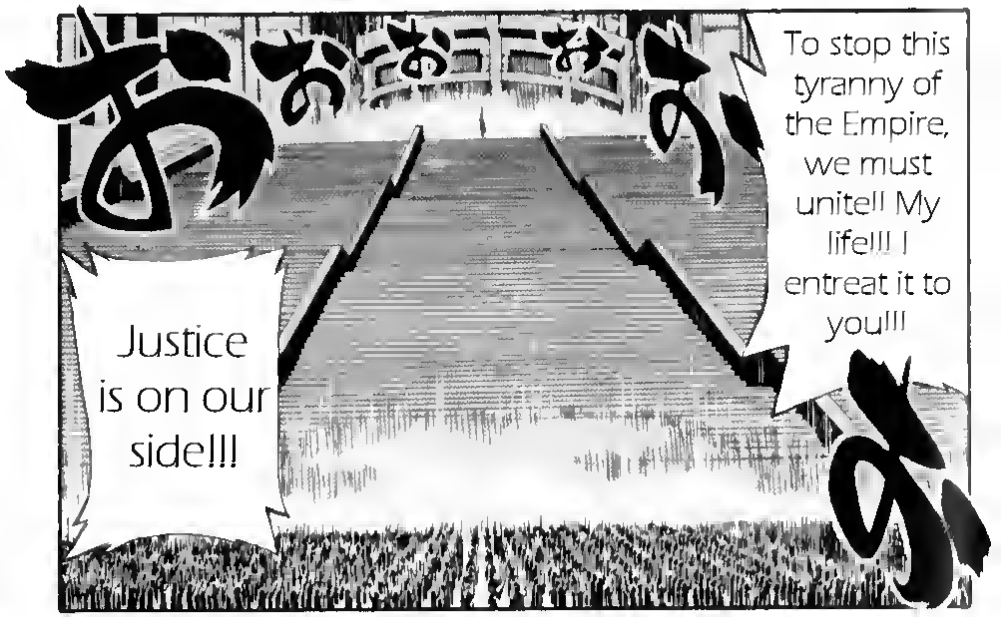

Before reinforcements could be sent, Arcadia was already moving against Dalmasca
Nalbina
Dalmasca
Rabanastre
Vayne Solidor's next target of attack


Several days after the destruction of Nabudis
Calling themselves the Galtea Suppression Forces, the Arcadian military converged at Nalbina Fortress, on the Dalmascan border.

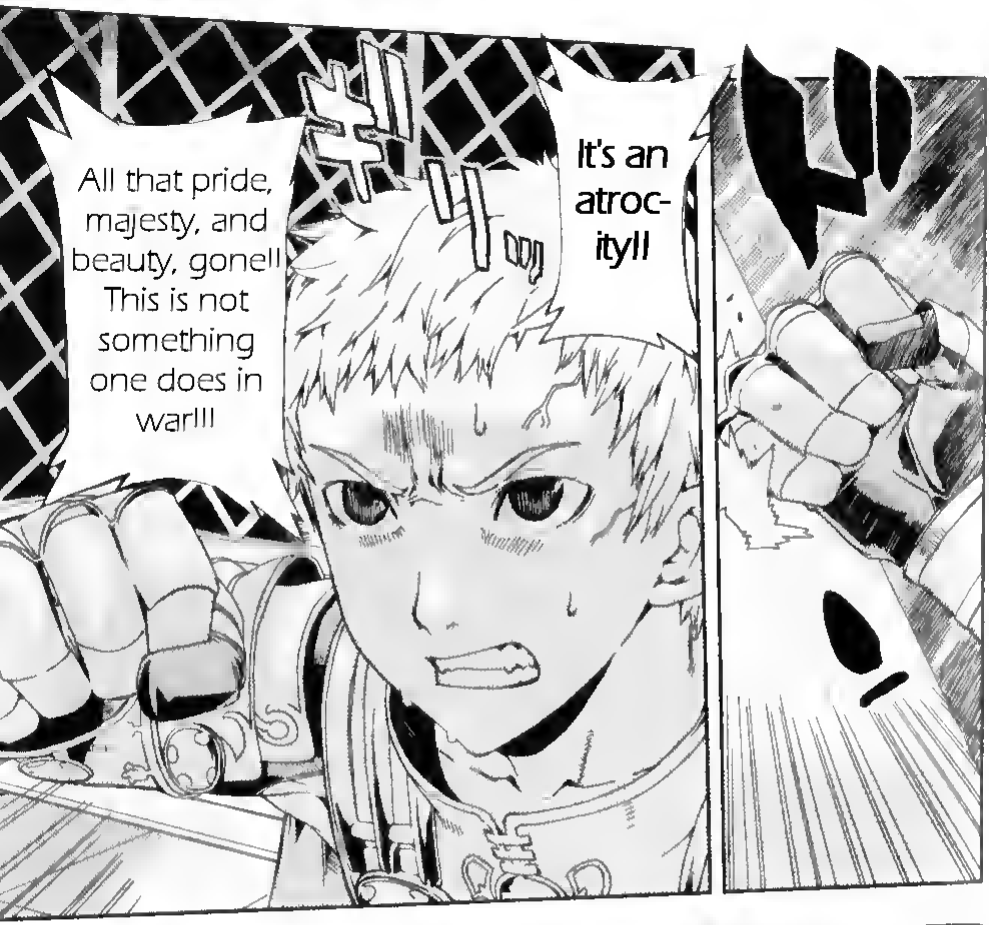
The Imperial Military now outnumbered them three to one.

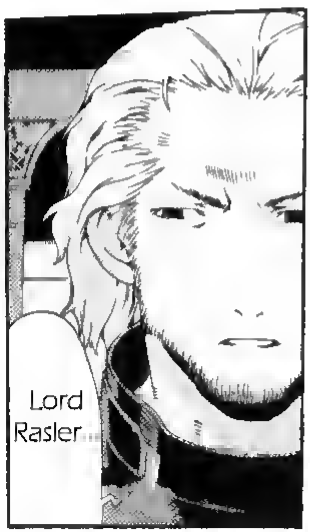
In retaliation, Dalmasca sent the Commander Rasler to organize a defense at Nalbina.

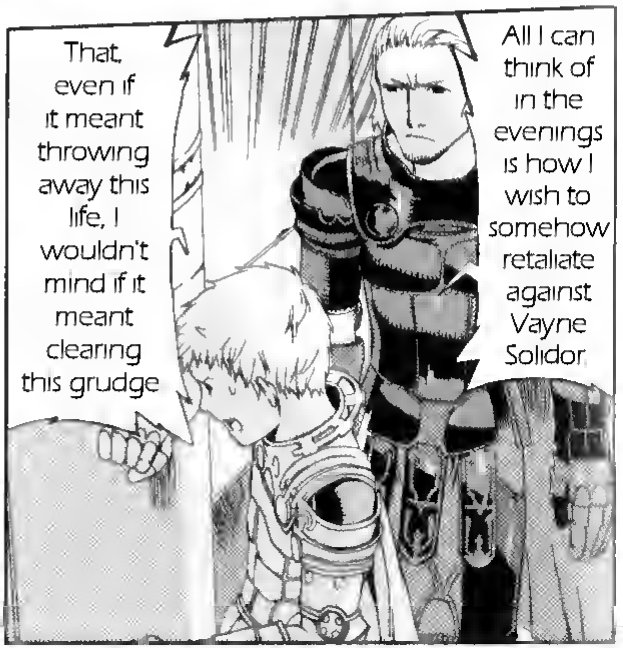
It's Dal-masca!!!
My home-land of Nabradia has been destroyed! Who is the Emp-ire's next target?!


おおおお

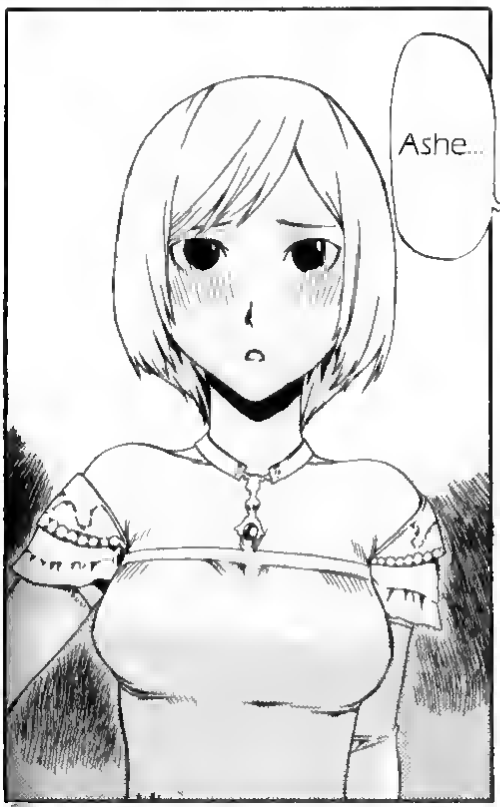
Lord Rasler?
That was a splendid speech
It will surely hearten those who were ready to flee in the face of the Empire
I apologize, General Rosenburg
It is truly difficult for me to keep my composure with this rage in my heart.
When I heard the report
That Nabudis and the area around it are so consumed in a storm of Mist that even the survivors are consumed with despair

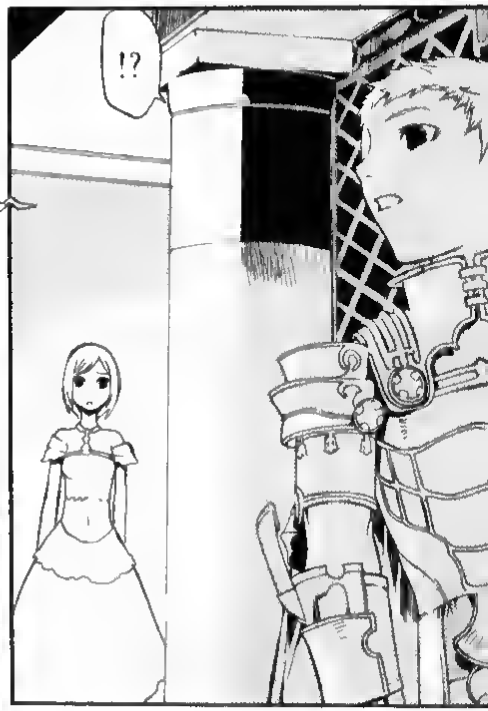

All that pride, majesty, and beauty, gone!! This is not something one does in war!!!
It's an atroc-ity!!


Lord Rasler...

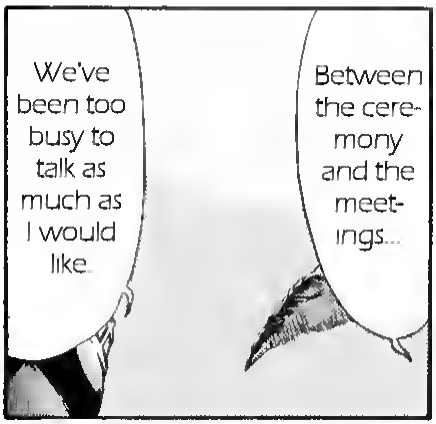

That, even if it meant throwing away this life, I wouldn't mind if it meant clearing this grudge
All I can think of in the evenings is how I wish to somehow retaliate against Vayne Solidor

Even so.
You and I both still have much to protect.
Gasp


Ashe...


!?

Rasler
Please think about what you would leave behind.
Um…
Ah…
Ah-
Yes.
Awk
Ward
I-If you'd like, would you take a walk with me?

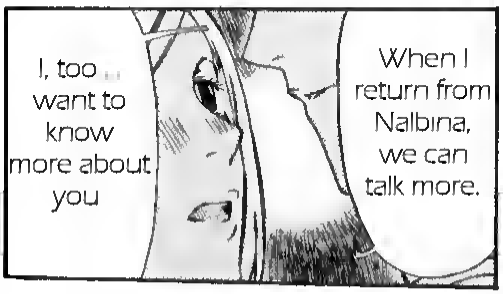

We've been too busy to talk as much as I would like...
Between the ceremony and the meetings...

It's only been a week That would be impossible
We're still not very comfortable with each other, are we?

I would like to learn much more about you...

I will definitely come back to you
Don't worry.

Like you won't return after this
I have a bad feeling.


I, too... want to know more about you
When I return from Nalbina, we can talk more.

Would you... promise me?
Yes, of course. If it's a promise with you, it will give me the power to do anything.
That's right... I can't die. I have to live and come home.
Near the Dalmasca-Nabradia border, at Nalbina Fortress.
For Ashe...

Are we not going to move? It is to be a seige, then?
So the main force of Dalmasca's army has been moving into Nalbina all day?
Arcadian Ground Forces
And most of all, there's Nalbina itself
ぎりぎり
I wonder... We have three times their number, but besides that, they have all the advantages...
The Paling!!!
All physical attacks are useless against their ultimate defense—

Literally: Magic Shield

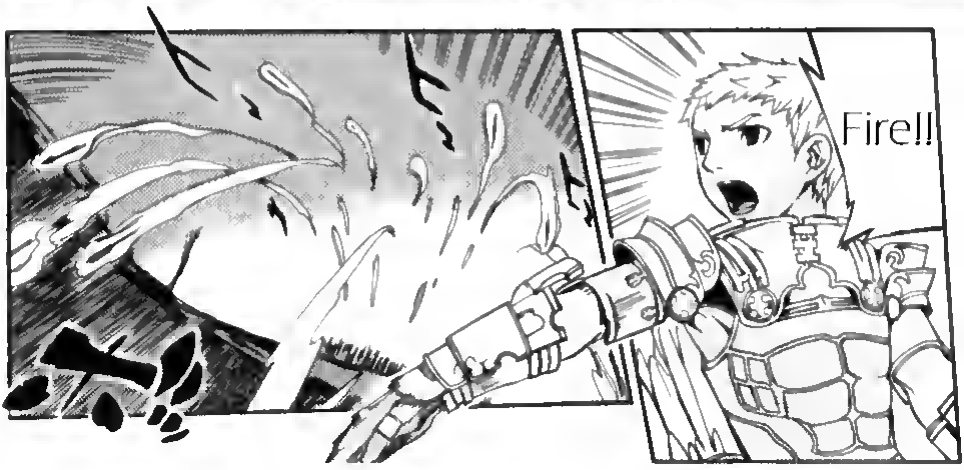
We'll overwhelm them with firepower The 8th armada should be enough, we'll stand back and watch.
The Ground Forces have already deployed, but that's the thing to blame.
.....?! There's movement at Nalbinal!
Oh-?! A ground battle?
Airships?! Impossible! They mean to have an aerial battle?!
Seems like they don't mean to stay in their nest like good little rabbits.
Send word to the 8th Armada at Mosphoran Highwaste immediately!
Dalmasca has sent air——
Ah?!

Eh?
Wa

That's too bad, you missed!!
They sent unmanned ships?!
Ha-
Haha haha
!?

This is....

Oil!!?


Fire!!

The Dalm-ascan Calv-ary!!
They filled old airships with oil and fired flaming arrows?!
I don't believe it!!
Th-
T-

Uwaaaa
H-hey, you lot, don't run away!
Wh-
When did they-?!
GUA-
Fight- Why won't you fight~~
Fighting in this battle will let us move out of the lower class! Don't you want to become true citizens?!

Do not chase them far - let those who flee do so
Rout the rest before the main force arrives!

Since the Empire has three times our number, we couldn't possibly win fighting them head on
As expected, the oil from Jagd Yensa burnt well!
Yes,
That went surprisingly well,
If would be good if we could at least have some cease-fire talks!
If we hold the fortress, will Rozzaria move? At this rate we're just waiting for the Arcadian senate to weary of war.
We've got to take advantage of it!!
Arcadia also knows that, and so they want this to be a decisive battle

We will make them realize that even a small Dalmascan force can fight on par with the Empire!
We will end it here!

We fight so we can return home alive!!
We will hold this fortress until the end!!

ouch

It's no good, they're routing us!
It's better if we head this way. We can't win a land battle against them!
わあああ
T- They're so strong! So this is the famous Dalmascan Calvary!

Hey, you- where are you looking? If we don't hurry and run, before Dalmasca starts pursuing—

You're a disgrace! If you flee from this place, then I will cut you down now!
Hissss
They likely thought it impossible to win a land battle. However,
We shall not retreat!!

Strange Their morale is returning? They're pushing us back?!
What's this?!
Lord Rasler, this is far enough! Let us cut our losses and give the order to retre-
The left flank has begun to fall!
That's ...?!

Of the Arcadian Empire
Those who protect the populace
The Special Guard who serve directly under the Justice Department of the Empire!
The Empire's Guardians of Law and Order!!
What's that? It looks like a monsterously strong pair.
Are they Judges?
They're not just any Judges...
The black clothes of an executioner—

JUDGE MAGISTER!!!

I will defeat them, and win this.
But I must turn this battle around...
That they would only send two Judges to deal with this battle is very strange
Destroy their flank!
Hurry!
Go for their weakened flank! Keep tight, spear formation!

Oh, are you running away? Prince!!!
!?
Clare
I know that..!
Lord Rasler, don't be rash! We've already achieved our goal!
I even heard your father cried and begged for his life during the siege of Nabudis!
GA HA
HA HA
I suppose all Nabradians are cowards
Lord Rasler, he's merely trying to provoke you You mustn't let him!
GAHAHAHAHA-
It's fine- run, run run away!
Shake
Shake
Galtea's line is one of cowards! You've become soft in times of peace What a foolish lineage!

Even if that's so, I cannot turn a blind eye to his slandering my late father's honour!!!
I will have him apol-ogize to my father in the next world!!!
!!
Don't, Lord Rasler!!
We must fall back and...

Judge Magister?!
Would you please play with me?!
I found you, General Rozenburg
Ku-
With this Dracel!

As expected, you're skilled
But your swordsmanship is quite different. . is it your different upbringing?
.....?
What are you talking about?
After Lord Rasler
Bring down the Judges

!?
It connected!
What?! It wasn't the Judge!!
When did he

Weak!!
Soft!
Slow!!!
Surr-ound him!
Squad-rons 3 to 5! Go from the left!
Mon-ster-
Is this all Dal-mascan soldiers have?!

!?
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA–
That explo-sion just now-
What are you surpr-ised at?!
Did you think we didn't have some sort of plan?!

Impossible, this is a nightmare...
Uu...
That you would use a teleportation stone to come here...
An Imperial Judge...
Excellent
Destroy the Paling before the main Dalmascan force returns!!
Lord Judge Magistrate Zargabaath! Everything appears operational!!
Don't underestimate Imperial Technology
.....

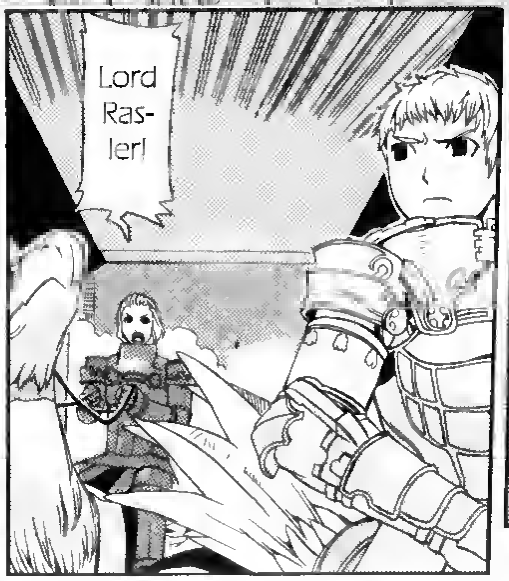
Their aim from the beginning was Nalbina's Paling?!
Another unit?!
And I walked right into their trap.
If it falls, the ground troops will be left totally unprotected.
That's right I still haven't
Would you... promise me?
... All forces,
Please think about what you would leave behind.
If we withdraw now, after all this
But with such insults to my ancestors

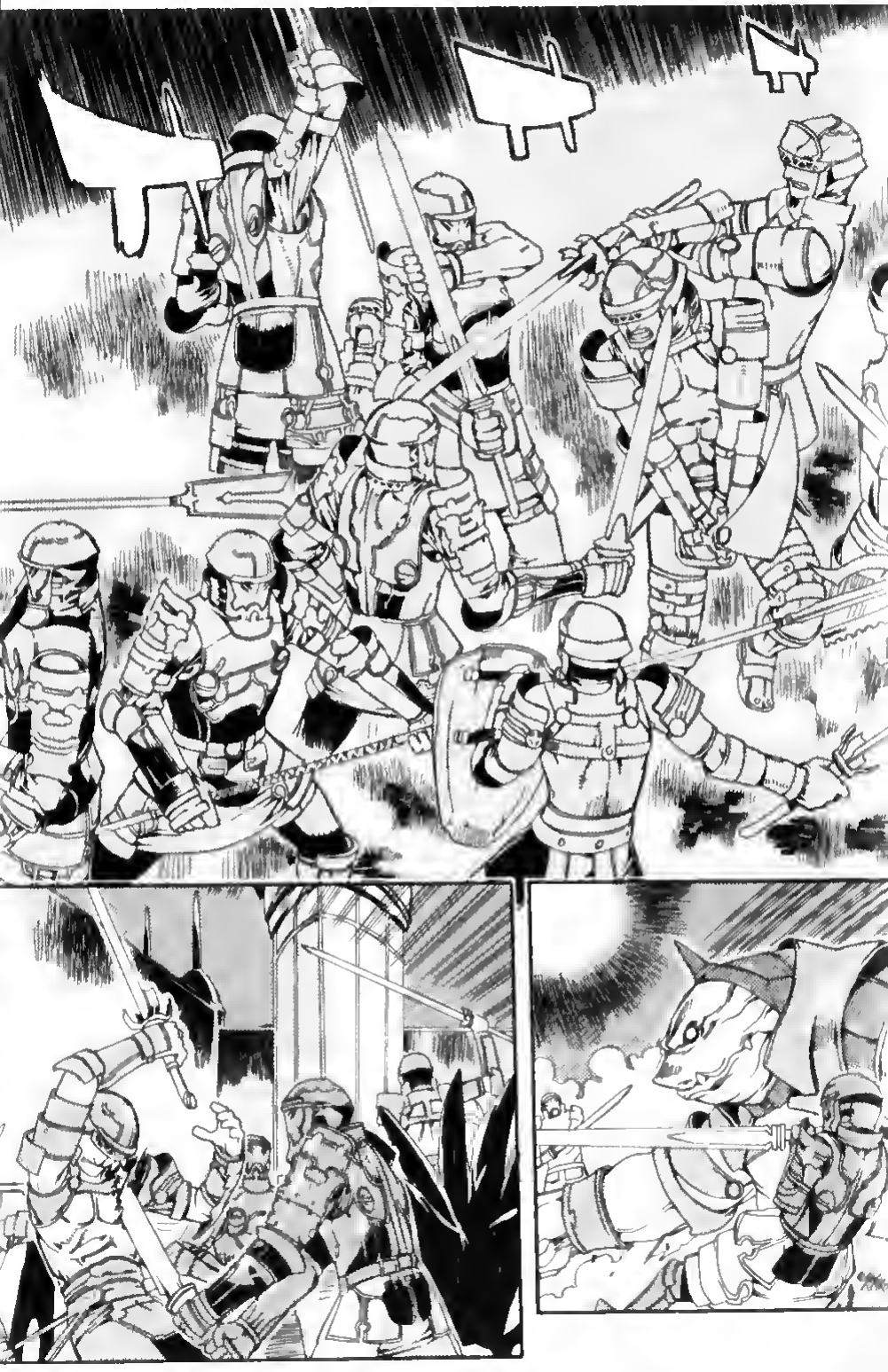
I still haven't fulfilled my promise.
All forces, fall back to Nal-bina!!!
.....
I will repay this debt some-day..
Haa
Haa
Haa
Drip
Stagger
Wait.

Now that the Dalmascan forces are in retreat,
Move Out !!!
All Arcadian forces!

This battle we'll lose!
At this rate, if the Paling falls
They deployed too fast - were we in the palm of Vayne's hand this entire time?
When did they move out from the Mosphoran Highwaste?!

General! Their goal is the Paling!
We must stop them!


Lord Rasler!

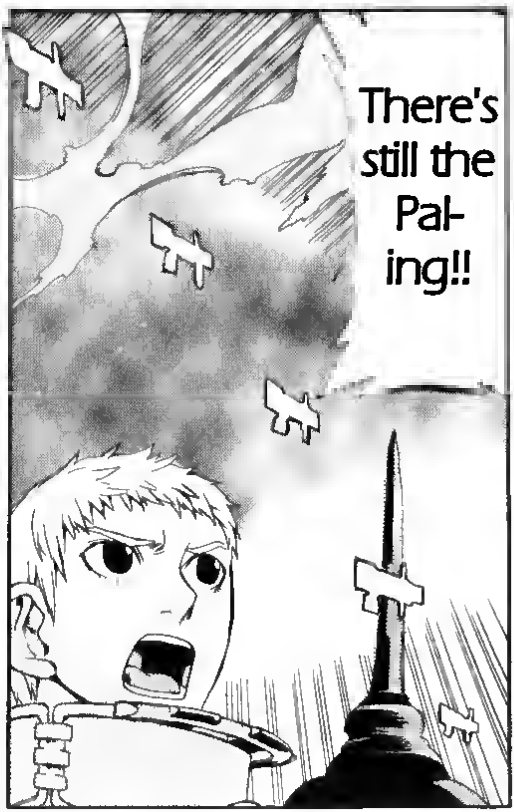


General! Their goal is the Paling!
We must stop them!
Lord Rasler!

Uaa!
It's no use. There's too many of them.

Not yet!!!
My Lord, Nalbina has fallen. We must withdraw.

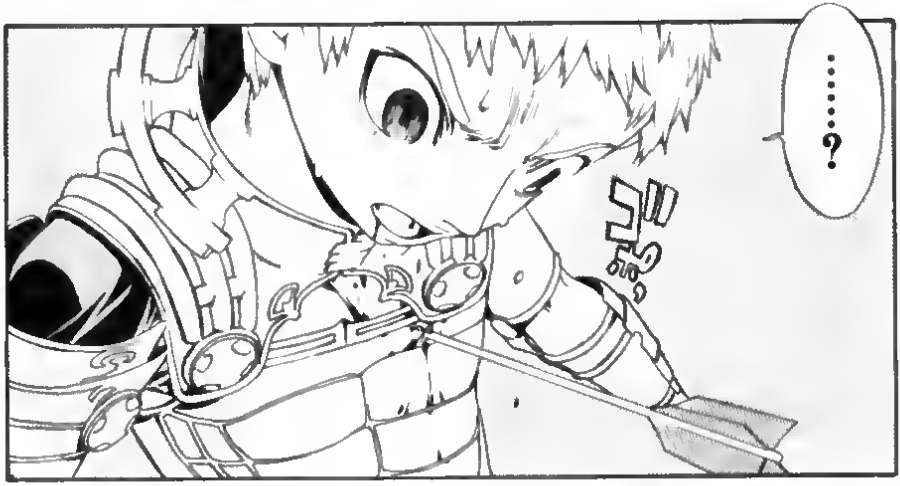
?


There's still the Pal-ing!!

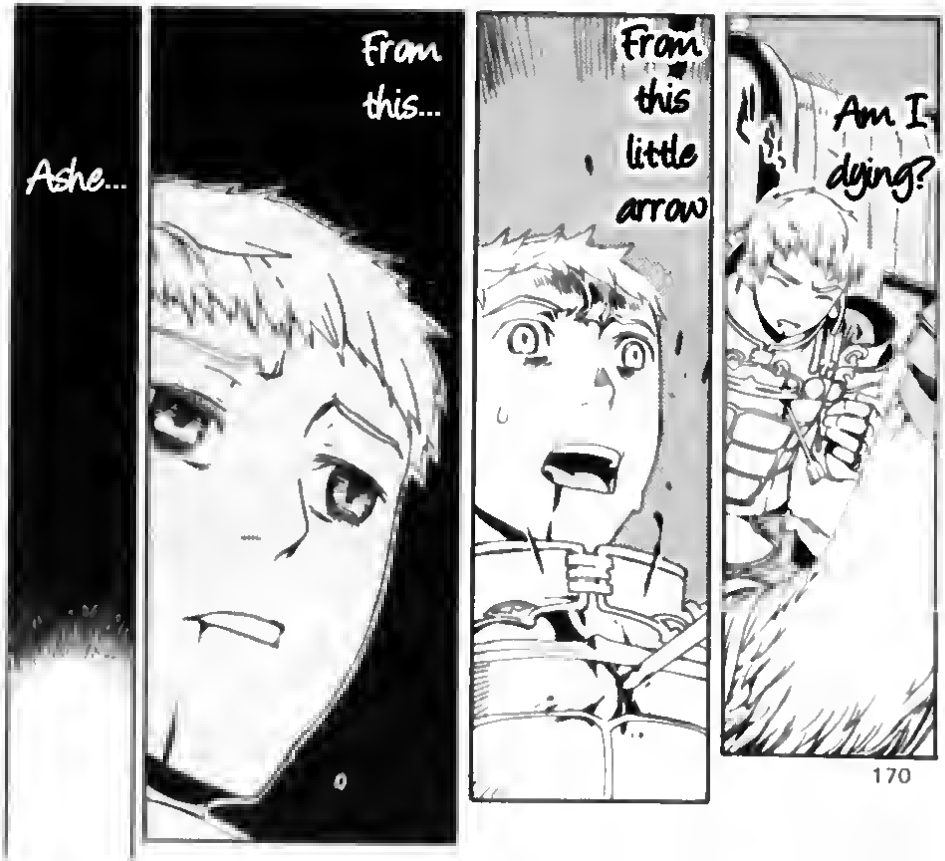
Sir-! We've shut it down!
What of the Paling!?
Excellent! Now we must defend this place until our main force arrives!
!!
The Paling ....!!

This batt-le-!!!
We can't surr-ender–
So this is where it ends
My father's ene-mies-!!!
You mustn't, it's useless!
Gasp

Lord Rasler, look out!!


……？
ゴリ

My blood is hot...
I can't...
breathe


Am I dying?
From this little arrow
From this...
Ashe...

Lord Rasler!
I'm sorry.
My pro-mise...

I promised
Don't worry!
It barely missed your vitals
You're not bleeding much, either.
I'll take you to a healer immediately, and-
I made a promise with Ashe That's right I can't die in this sort of place
I'll definitely definitely return home alive
Save

Lord...
Rasler...?

Coming home like this...
The Royal Capital of Rabanastre
Rasler—
Rasler...
Why did this.
Year 704, Old Valedian Calander.
After the defeat at Nalbina, Dalmasca's resistance continued for several months, until, exhausted, they were overwhelmed.
The same year, the Empire offered entirely unreasonable terms of peace.
Dalmasca surrendered.
FINAL FANTASY XII 1 おわり

SPECIAL THANKS

皆川裕史
吉田明彦
皆葉英夫
秋山淳
渡辺大祐
加藤弘彰

and

ALL FINAL FANTASY XII STAFF

ガンガンコミックス

FINAL FANTASY XII

ファイナルファンタジーXII

FINAL FANTASY XII 1

2007年1月22日
初版

著　者　　天羽 銀

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それはイヴァリースと呼ばれる世界の物語。まだ魔法が当たり前のように存在し、天かける飛空艇が大空を埋めていた時代…。亡国の王女アーシェは王国の再興誓い、少数の仲間とともに反撃の機会をうかがっていた…。大ヒットRPG完全コミック化！

FINAL FANTASY XII
ファイナルファンタジー12

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CHARACTER DESIGN Akihiko Yoshida

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